



What will you do differently than you did in 2017! Will you make an effort to meet and greet a new neighbor? Will you become involve with the Glens or the County Creek Board? Will you pick up litter you see while walking through the neighborhood.

The Glens Board wishes everyone the happiest of New Year's

Bob. Mike, Jamie

Steve , Doug, , and Jay



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS



"THANK YOU" to all of you that decorated for the holidays. The decorations certainly made our community feel very festive and your efforts are appreciated! We would like to remind you however that all decorations need to be removed no later than January 31st.
Thank you!

2017 Glens Board Meetings

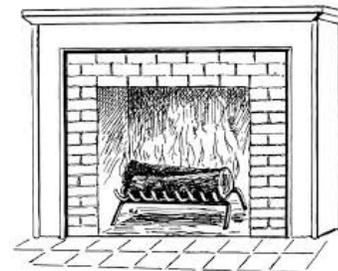
@ Clubhouse



January Board Meeting	1-16	@	7:00 PM
March Board Meeting	3-20	@	7:00 PM
May Board Meeting	5-15	@	7:00 PM
July Board Meeting	7-7	@	7:00 PM
September Board Meeting	9-18	@	7:00 PM
November Board Meeting	11-20	@	7:00 PM

Make Sure Your Fireplace is Safe

Here's what to look for to ensure your fireplace is safe and up-to-snuff.



How do you keep your fireplace safe? The best tools you have are your eyes.

With regular visual [inspections](#) both inside your home and out, you'll make sure your [fireplace](#) is in good shape for the burning season.

Checking From the Outside

Examine the chimney to make sure a chimney cap is present and in good repair. The metal cap keeps animals, rain, and snow out of the chimney, while acting as a spark arrester that prevents hot embers from landing on your [roofing](#).

If you have a multi-story home or a steep roof, play it safe and use a pair of binoculars to check the chimney cap from the ground.

While you're at it, make sure:

- There's no bird nest or debris buildup on the cap.
- There are no tree limbs above or near the chimney.
- The mortar and bricks on the chimney aren't crumbling or missing.
- The chimney rises at least 2 feet above where it exits the roof.
- The chimney crown — the sloping cement shoulders at the top of the chimney — is beveled, which helps air flow.
- The flue liner is visible above the chimney crown.
- The chimney is plumb and not leaning to one side or the other.

The roof flashing is tight against the chimney.

If you spot anything amiss, call a licensed chimney professional or mason to remedy the problem. For pricey jobs, make sure to get a second estimate.

Looking Inside Your Home

With a flashlight, inspect the flue damper to make sure it opens, closes, and seals properly.

"If the damper doesn't seal well, you'll lose a tremendous amount of heat from the home when the fireplace isn't in use," explains Gary Spolar, a licensed sweep and owner of Century Chimney in northeast Ohio.

With the damper open, check the flue for combustible material such as animal nests or other foreign objects. You should be able to see daylight at the top.

Inspect the fireplace surround, hearth, and firebox to make sure there are no cracked bricks or missing mortar. Damage inside the firebox is serious — have a professional [fireplace and chimney inspection](#). An inspection costs \$79-\$500.

Also, check for obvious signs of moisture inside the firebox, which could mean a faulty cap.

We enjoy [gas fireplaces](#) because they're low-maintenance — but that doesn't mean they're no-maintenance. You should:

- Inspect the glass doors for cracks or latch issues.
- Check that gas logs are in the proper position.
- Turn gas off at the shut-off valve and test the igniter.

Ignite the fire and look for clogged burner holes. If present, turn off gas and clear obstructions with a pin or needle.

Monthly Inspections



As part of their contracted services, Preferred Community Management routinely inspects the neighborhood for infractions of the deed restrictions. Common reasons for receiving a violation notice include:

- leaving garbage containers or recycle bins at the curb beyond the evening of the day of collection.
- excessive algae/mold/mildew on driveway, house, or sidewalks.
- excessive weeds or unmaintained yard.
- tree or hedge overgrowth impeding motorists or pedestrians.
- inoperable or tag less vehicles in driveways or roadways.

Homeowners have long asked the Board to better enforce the deed restrictions. If you receive a 1st notice, please view it as a courteous reminder of our existing restrictions. If you have questions or need an extension please contact our property manager. If a homeowner does not correct the violation(s) within the allotted time and does not contact the property manager, the Board may choose to enforce the restriction through city code enforcement or legal avenues.

In this joint effort between homeowners and property management, we have made great strides in improving the overall appearance of Glens and protecting its homeowners' investments.



"Happy New Year? But I'm not finished with the old one yet!"



Speeding

Please remember to obey the 15 mph residential speed limit! As you know, the community's streets have multiple turns. Because of this layout, there simply isn't enough time to properly react to pedestrians (big and small), other cars or obstructions. Please keep this in mind when leaving or returning home so there are no unfortunate accidents.

It's Another New Year...

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

THE CHURCH'S VIEW OF NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years.

January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

Other traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their god of wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that god as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

AULD LANG SYNE

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."