



Neighborhood Insider

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Answers from Amanda – **Parking**



Q: What is the best way to combat parking problems in our neighborhood?

A: On-street parking problems seem to be top compliance issues in many of our Associations. Cars parked on both sides of a street pose potential health and safety risks for the community, creating difficulty for emergency vehicles (i.e. fire trucks, ambulances, etc.) to navigate safely and quickly in what could be a life-threatening situation. Safety of children is also a concern, due to decreased visibility when vehicles are parked in the streets. Communication to homeowners stressing these concerns is a great first step in mitigating on-street parking problems.

There are several ways to potentially address the issues. First, the community rules and regulations as well as the CC&Rs must be thoroughly reviewed to get an understanding of what guidelines currently exist regarding street parking. The language can vary significantly from community to community on parking restrictions. The rules and restrictions may also vary depending on whether the streets are public or private (i.e. owned by the Association). Generally speaking, Associations with private streets

have greater opportunity to enforce parking restrictions than those with public streets. However, it is still prudent to understand in both situations the applicable language in the CC&Rs.

If existing rules and regulations do not address the issue as thoroughly as the Board would like, AAM can work with the Board to draft additional language (as long as the language is not in conflict with the CC&Rs) to be voted on and approved by the Board.

One possible solution to combat overnight street parking might be to use a third-party parking service vendor to ticket or boot vehicles that violate the approved rules. This type of service can be used intensively for a specific time frame (i.e. 60-90 days) and then less frequently (perhaps weekends only) as violators realize there is a direct and quick consequence for this type of enforcement issue.

The Board may also have its Community Manager seek bids for "No Parking" signage to be placed in strategic locations within the common areas (again, if so allowed within the CC&Rs and subject to applicable state, city or county ordinances). Please note that

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DID YOU KNOW: AAM Volunteerism

Did you know that AAM encourages volunteerism among its employees? The company kicked off its Volunteer Recognition Program this spring in an effort to encourage employees to give back to the community through charitable works.

AAM does its part by alerting employees to volunteer opportunities via its internal Intranet site and in-office emails, and by awarding points or credit to employees for each hour served. Some of the volunteer opportunities are sponsored by AAM and the Arizona Association of Community Managers. Others are hosted by various charitable organizations. Employees also may volunteer with an organization of their own choosing.

AAM will announce the names of the three employees who earned the most volunteer points at an all-employee meeting in December. Winners with the most points will have the opportunity to have donations made to their charity of choice. All together, AAM hopes to achieve a minimum of 1,000 volunteer hours in 2009!




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SERVICE SPOTLIGHT: AP Department



Seated (L to R): Kelly Thomas, Aprille Butler, Dolores Guillen
Standing (L to R): Tammie Howell, Eric Silva, Dolly Curtis, Patti Brown

The business of processing payments and check requests associated with the many communities AAM manages is all in a day's work for the seven individuals who comprise the company's Accounts Payable department.

Kelly Thomas, who heads the department, says while many of her employees do interact with HOA boards, most of their work concentrates on making sure invoices are processed, checks are signed, research requests are filled and all financial records are correct and complete for month end.

Thomas, who joined AAM in January from Allied Waste's corporate office, said she enjoys the challenge of resolving various issues that crop up throughout the day and appreciates the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of people and departments. Outside of work, you'll find Thomas enjoying the great outdoors with her husband of 23 years and her four children, ages 9 to 22. The Gilbert resident confesses her ultimate outdoor indulgence is sitting under an umbrella on a beach somewhere – anywhere!

NEWS YOU CAN USE: Greener Vacations



10 TIPS FOR A GREENER VACATION

With summer vacation season upon us, what are you doing to mesh your desire to honor Mother Earth with your quest for a good time? If that question has you stumped, here's a Top 10 list of ways to have an eco-friendly vacation without a lot of sacrifice on your part:

- 1** Use public transportation - Once you arrive at your destination, take advantage of buses, monorails, ferries and subways rather than traveling by yourselves in a gas guzzler.
- 2** Pack light – Don't bring more luggage than you need. It adds weight to whatever means of transportation you use, requiring more energy, plus it adds to the burden you must carry.
- 3** Take a volunteer vacation – Do good while you're away from home. Volunteer vacations enable you to spend time on worthwhile projects, such as helping to construct a holding tank for a community's water supply, building classroom furniture and playground equipment and installing footbridges that cross local rivers.
- 4** Book an eco-friendly hotel – Support resorts, lodges and hotels constructed from recycled materials.
- 5** Shoot digital – Carry a digital camera to capture your vacation memories rather than a disposable or old-fashioned single-lens reflex camera that uses film. Also, use rechargeable batteries rather than disposables.
- 6** Acknowledge that some destinations should be off limits – Although tourism dollars are critical to many places, there are some destinations whose ecosystems are so fragile that the arrival of tourists can create severe, irreversible environmental damage. Examples: The Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest.
- 7** Rent a Smart Car – If you must rent a car, choose a hybrid or an energy-efficient compact model. Conserve gas by driving the speed limit.
- 8** Conserve in-room energy – Just as when you're at home, shut off the lights, TV and air conditioner when you leave your room.
- 9** Don't generate unnecessary laundry – The energy and water required to launder sheets and towels daily is wasteful. It has become accepted practice for travelers to leave soiled towels in the bathtub, signaling to the maid service that the ones left hanging can be used for extra days.
- 10** Consume locally – Choose locally grown meats, vegetables, fruits and wines. You'll cut down on the environmental impact of long-haul shipping and handling, while developing a fuller appreciation of the area you're visiting.

Source: <http://honeymoons.about.com/od/smarttravel/tp/greenvacation.htm>

Answers from Amanda continued

the Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act and Title 28, Chapter 2, Article 5 of the Arizona Revised Statutes restricts the disclosure of certain personal driver license and vehicle record information (including but not limited to name and address), which may make it difficult to determine the owner of the offending vehicle.

Another important step in enforcing parking violations is educating homeowners through repetitive communication about prohibited parking as defined by the Arizona Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Division and reminding them that the appropriate authorities will be notified regarding infractions. Examples of illegal parking per the ADOT website are parking (1) on a sidewalk, (2) in front of a private or public driveway, (3) within the boundaries of an intersection, (4) on a crosswalk or within 20 feet of a cross walk at an intersection, (5) in any area with signs prohibiting parking, (6) within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, and (7) in such a way that you create a hazard for other vehicles.

Depending on the county or municipality in which you live, we may also be able to take advantage of resources provided by one or the other for towing abandoned vehicles.

Please also note that for the past few years, bills have been introduced by our state legislators attempting to prohibit Association control over parking on public rights of way. It is always a good idea to let your legislators hear from you on this topic and how it would impact your community if ever signed into law.

Amanda Shaw, President