

## **FROM THE MAIN GATE**

September 2023

Over the last couple of years, Hershey's Mill Security staff have noticed, and residents have reported, a sharp increase in the number of unauthorized guests attempting to tailgate other vehicles through our entry gates. These tailgating incidents, which Security witnesses on camera multiple times per day, have led to numerous broken gates, car accidents, and even instances of road rage stemming from unauthorized guests confronting residents who were attempting to prevent the tailgating.

After researching effective options to combat the increased tailgating, and in turn keep our residents safer, repair costs down, and traffic flowing more smoothly, the Hershey's Mill Security Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that Hershey's Mill pursue the installation of a "Double-Gate Entry System" at the East Gate (adjacent to Route 352). This recommendation was approved, and the installation of the system was completed in June 2023.

Understanding that the implementation of this new system likely raises many questions in the minds of residents reading this notice, I'll take a couple minutes to address the most common questions I've encountered:

### **HOW DOES THE DOUBLE-GATE ENTRY SYSTEM WORK?**

- When you pull up to the entrance, you will now see two gates instead of one.
- Your existing windshield/headlight tag or card will work as it always has; and once the tag/card has been read, the gate will open...just as it does at any other gate.
- When the first gate opens, the driver pulls up into the 30-foot space between the gates.  
*(NOTE: The average car is 15 feet long, and the average pickup truck is 20 feet long.)*
- When the first gate closes behind the vehicle, it will automatically trigger the second gate to open.  
*(NOTE: Your tag/card is NOT read a second time. The closing of the first gate causes the second gate to open automatically.)*
- The driver then continues through the second gate.

### **WHO CANNOT USE THE EAST GATE FOR ENTRY?**

- Anyone with vehicles, or vehicle/trailer combinations, over 25 feet long should NOT attempt to enter through the East Gate, even if they have a tag/card.
- All deliveries and guests (without a tag/card) should continue to use the Main Gate entrance at 1500 Greenhill Road.

### **CAN EMERGENCY VEHICLES OVER 25 FEET LONG STILL ENTER?**

- Yes. A device is installed that will allow oversized emergency vehicles to travel through both gates without incident.

### **WILL THIS SYSTEM BE INSTALLED AT OTHER GATES?**

- This remains to be seen, as we wish to first measure the effectiveness of this new system at the East Gate before considering implementation at other gates.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE TRIES TO TAILGATE ME?**

- The scenario in which two vehicles will be able to fit between the first and second gates is going to be very rare. The limited space itself, should dissuade anyone from attempting to tailgate.

- Be aware of vehicles behind you. Most people attempting to tailgate will either (1) be right on your bumper, or (2) be waiting in the pull-off to try to sneak in.

- Once you pass through the first gate, come to a stop so that there is no room for a second vehicle to enter. Allow the first gate to come down before another vehicle can pass through it.

- Security officers in the Security Center will be closely monitoring the East Gate cameras during the early stages of implementation and will respond if an incident arises.

Thank you for your patience during the implementation process for this new technology designed to help maintain the security of our community; and if you have further questions that were not addressed by this notice, please feel free to contact me at [marcRfraser@yahoo.com](mailto:marcRfraser@yahoo.com) or 610-431-4006.