

RADNOR GREEN NEWSLETTER

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- Safety Information
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- New Playground Equipment
- HB 284
- Survey Results/Email Addresses

RGCA Board Members:

President:

- Carol Forsythe
 - 302-798-9765

Vice-President:

- Bob Gamble
 - 302-792-8004

Treasurer:

- Mario Fornoff
 - 302-792-1140

Secretary:

- Michelle Canning
 - 302-792-1843

Website Committee:

- Carl Colantuono
 - 302-798-5632

Code Enforcement Committee:

Welcoming/Social Committee:

Community Watch Committee:

- Bob Gamble
 - 302-792-8004

Board Members:

- Lois Jones
- Bill Cole

board@radnorgreen.com
www.radnorgreen.com

Snow Removal and Dues

Snow removal is by far the largest expense the community has and is the main reason there is a Radnor Green Civic Association. Unlike in many neighboring states, the responsibility for plowing and sanding our community's streets falls to the residents themselves. The Civic Association is comprised of residents who have volunteered their time to obtain a snow removal contract and make sure our other "fixed" expenses are paid. In addition to snow removal the civic association has to pay the electric bill for the two streetlights in our community and pay the postage and miscellaneous expenses related to our newsletters and dues notices.

The State of Delaware will reimburse the association up to 75% of their expenses for snow removal if a storm reaches certain guidelines. In order to qualify for reimbursement "the posted measurement within your area must be at least four inches for a period of at least one hour." To find out if a storm has qualified for reimbursement you can check the DELDOT website at www.deldot.gov on the first business day after a storm or you can call 1-800-652-5600 for a voice recording. All of this information is also available online at http://www.deldot.gov/information/community_programs_and_services/snow/faqs.shtml.

Last year the State of Delaware did NOT reimburse us for any of the storms we received. Most of the storms last year were a combination of snow and ice (mostly ice) and did not reach the minimum snow accumulations required. On January 10th 2008 Bryon Short, our community's State Representative, introduced legislation to help civic associations such as ours with the costs associated with handling ice storms. Additional information on this new legislation is included on page 7. In order to plow and sand the entire community it costs the association \$2,305. We also know that most residents do not want us to wait to sand and/or salt until the accumulation reaches the reimbursement rates (4"). In fact we received numerous complaints last year because residents felt that we should have sanded or plowed sooner.

I hope everyone will keep this information in mind when you receive your future dues notices. If you've already paid your dues for this season we truly appreciate it. **We've included a thank you to all the residents who have already paid inside the newsletter (see page 6).** If you haven't paid your dues yet there is still time!! Your dues payments can be mailed to RGCA; PO Box 262; Claymont, DE 19703. The prompt payment of your dues not only support your community but prevents us from spending additional revenue to send out follow-up notices.

We have heard everyone's complaints about the dues increase this year and assure you we would lower the dues if we could obtain payment from more residents. ***If the payments we received this year do not cover our snow removal expenses we will not make a supplementary dues request. We simply will not plow the streets. We apologize in advance if it should come to this, but there have to be some consequences for those who do not pay and we cannot ask those who have already paid to pay again because others will not pay even once.***

Upcoming RGCA Meetings:

- March 25, 2008
- April 22, 2008
- May 27, 2008
- June 24, 2008
- July 22, 2008
- August 26, 2008

All meetings are at the Brandywine School District Administration Building unless otherwise noted.

1000 Pennsylvania Avenue
Claymont, DE 19703

Upcoming RGCA Events:

- **Community Yard Sale:**
 - Saturday June 7th
- **Community Picnic/Social:**
 - TBD
- **RGCA Board Nominations:**
 - May 27th
- **RGCA Board Elections:**
 - June 24th
- **Dues Notices:**
 - September 2008

Check the website for any changes to the schedule above
www.radnorgreen.com

Community Yard Sale

Save the Date!! We have scheduled this year's community yard sale



for Saturday June 7th, 2008, the rain date will be Sunday June 8th, 2008. This year's event has been scheduled to coincide with Ashbourne Hill's community yard sale so hopefully our turnout will be even larger than normal.

Community Picnic

When: Summer 2008

Where: Radnor Green Park

Time: TBD

Look for additional information in June's newsletter



Spring Clean-up



Join us on Saturday April 26th to help clean up our community. We are hoping to have enough people to work on the area around the park, out at the entrance island, and under the I-95 overpass. Meet at the I-95 Underpass at 9 AM. Bring work gloves, brooms, rakes, etc. Kids with their parents are welcome to help!

Important Phone numbers:

New Castle County :

County Executive:

- Christopher Coons
- 302-395-5101

General Information, Complaints, Code Enforcement:

- 302-395-5555

County Council District 8

- John Cartier
- 302-395-8348

New Castle County Police:

- Emergency: 911
 - Non-Emergency:
 - 302-573-2800
-

State of Delaware:

Delaware Help Line:

- 302-577-3000

State Senator District 5

- Catherine Cloutier
- 302-744-4137

State Representative District 7

- Bryon Short
- 302-475-2252

We Hear You

We asked for your suggestions and comments when we mailed out this year's invoices and thought we would share some of them with everyone. We have included our responses. We appreciate everyone that took the time to share his or her comments or suggestions and apologize that we don't always have time to contact everyone directly. Please attend a meeting or contact a board member directly if you have an issue you would like to discuss in detail.

- I know you have addressed these issues before but just to remind everyone it's important to leave your outside lights on all night, it's so dark in our area. Tree trimming, residence are responsible for branches hanging over sidewalks and roads.
 - **Board Response: We agree and encourage everyone to keep their lights on and keep an eye out for your neighbors. The county complaint number (302-395-5555) can be used to report issues with county code.**
- In the future news letters-list the name and/or addresses of those who do not pay their dues!
- Why doesn't everyone pay their dues?
- What is being done regarding delinquent accounts? They should be sent to a collection agency...it's not fair for the rest of us.
- I do not mind paying my share. Would it be possible every three or five years a discount be given for residents that pay each year? I am now paying more than last year for those that do not pay.
- Perhaps if you publish thank yous to those who pay their dues the dead beats will follow suit. Please encourage residents to pick up trash the community looks so much better with clean streets.
- Post names of those who "do not" pay
 - **Board Response: We have included a "Thank You" to the addresses that have paid their dues in this newsletter. Since there isn't a legal obligation to pay we cannot "report" the people who don't pay. For the most part the same people pay their dues every year, if we gave them a discount we would fall short of what is needed to accomplish what we do now. We hope that we prove that the money provided is used responsibly and that people will want to contribute to help out their friends and neighbors.**
- When we moved in June '06 there was no welcoming or social committee that contacted us. Thank you.
- I would love to help I just don't have any time right now!
- Cannot help at this time.
 - **Board Response: We try to do what we can as a board. We apologize that we aren't always able to contact residents (new or existing) directly. All of us on the board are volunteers who have jobs, children, hobbies, and other obligations in addition to our community involvement. We always try to get the priority items done (snow removal, newsletters, invoices) and then hope we can get other items completed. Additional volunteers are always needed to accomplish things we can't get done.**

(Continued on page 4)

Community Links:

Claymont Renaissance:

<http://www.claymontrenaissance.org/>

Claymont Transportation Plan:

<http://www.deldot.gov/static/projects/claymont/>

Claymont Community Center:

<http://www.claymontcenter.org/>

Robinson House:

<http://www.robinsonhousede.org/>

Claymont Fire Company:

<http://www.cfc13.com/>

Claymont Community Events:

If you know of any events that would be of interest to the community in general please let us know and we will include that information in a future newsletter

(Continued from page 3)

- We love Radnor Green! Thank for all the hard work everyone does
- Thank you for all you do!
- We are so pleased with our snow removal we wonder if some of our new neighbors !? Think that the snow removal is done by the state. Your services are truly appreciated!
 - **Board Response: We appreciate the positive comments we do receive regarding the board and the snow removal. We are constantly trying to educate everyone regarding how the snow removal works.**
- I'm sure there are a lot of seniors living alone in our community it would be nice to have a senior get together.
 - **Board Response: We would support this sort of thing the best we can but we would need someone to volunteer to spearhead a committee to get this going.**
- \$45 is a 150% increase over last year's \$30.00. Why is there no explanation for this ?? Yearly increases of this magnitude will only drive responses down!
 - **Board Response: We set the dues for this year based on the same number of houses paying as last year. Last year we had a carryover of approx. \$7000 from the previous year when we set the dues, this year we only had a carryover of \$3000 (1 snow removal). Since we were close to not being able to plow the streets at the end of last season we had to make up this discrepancy in some manner. We understood that people would not be happy about paying this increase but felt that most people would understand that we only ask for an amount that we feel is needed. If we could get greater participation from the community we would lower the dues so everyone would benefit from that greater participation. So far this year we are on track to receive the same number of responses as last year. We think this proves that the people who have always paid truly understand the value they are getting and the people who usually don't pay will not pay regardless of the amount we request. We will continue to do all we can to increase participation in the association because the only other option is to dissolve it and then there will not be ANY snow removal.**
- Something has to be done about speeding-cars, ATV's, motorcycles-I live in the middle of the block between Madison & Green they go by here 50+ miles P.H. New speed limit signs may help-enforced-Green St. Elem is around the corner. Don't wait until a child is killed before something is done. thank you.
 - **Board Response: The police have been advised of these issues several times. The civic association only has limited ability to do anything about this. You can always contact the county police at the non-emergency number 302-573-2800 when you see something occurring.**

RGCA Meeting Attendance:

- July Meeting
 - 11 Attendees
- August Meeting
 - 17 Attendees
- September Meeting
 - 8 Attendees
- October Meeting
 - 7 Attendees
- November Meeting
 - 5 Attendees
- December Meeting
 - Cancelled

Recent Guest Speakers at Civic Assoc. Meetings:

- August Meeting
 - Bryon Short (7th district State Representative)
- September Meeting
 - Bryon Short (7th district State Representative)
- October Meeting
 - No Guest Speakers
- November Meeting
 - No Guest Speakers
- December Meeting
 - Cancelled
- January Meeting
 - Bryon Short (7th district State Representative)
- February Meeting
 - Officer Amy Kevis (New Castle County Police)

Safety Recommendations

There are several simple things that we can all do to make our homes and our community safer for everyone.

1. Make sure your car doors are locked. This sounds like such a simple thing but it is easy to be distracted and forget to lock up your vehicle. Don't allow your car to be an easy target.
2. Don't leave valuables in clear sight in your vehicle. If you have to keep something of value in your car put it in the trunk so someone isn't "tempted".
3. Keep an outside light on or install motion lights that activate whenever there is movement.
4. Watch out for your neighbors. No one knows the neighborhood better than the people that live in it. If you see something that doesn't look right, contact the police. If you don't think it's an emergency use the non-emergency number to report suspicious activity (302-573-2800)
5. Install and test your smoke detectors. Everyone should have smoke detectors in their home. Make sure you test them regularly and change the batteries when needed.
6. Slow down in the neighborhood. Another no-brainer. The Police have been actively monitoring the speed in our community and issuing citations for violations.
7. Confirm the identity of the people at your door. Recent scams have shown how easy it is for people to pretend to be utility workers or others and gain entry to someone's home.
8. Don't "advertise" that your house is empty. Stop mail and paper deliveries while you are away. Invest in some timers for lights to keep the house looking occupied.
9. Lock your doors and windows. Most of us remember to lock the front door but it's easy to leave a window unlocked or open or to forget to secure a shed after working in the yard.
10. Never give out personal information. Another favorite of scam artists. Always ask yourself why this person needs the information they are asking and make sure you know who they are before you provide any personal information.
11. Shred personal documents before discarding them in the trash. Identity theft is a growing problem and a lot of personal information can be obtained by going through the trash people place on the curb.
12. Secure your wireless Internet connection. More and more people are installing WiFi networks so they can take advantage of their broadband service from anywhere in their home. Unfortunately most people don't take the necessary precautions to ensure their private networks can't be accessed by people outside their homes.

New Castle County Non-Emergency number: 302-573-2800

Thank You

The following addresses have paid their 2007/2008 dues as of 02/29/2008. If you haven't paid your dues yet there is still time! Please send your payment to RGCA; PO Box 262; Claymont, DE 19703. We will include an updated "Thank You" in the spring/summer newsletter for any payments received after this newsletter's publication date.

Benning Road

18 Benning Road
20 Benning Road
24 Benning Road
25 Benning Road
29 Benning Road
30 Benning Road
31 Benning Road
33 Benning Road
39 Benning Road
40 Benning Road
43 Benning Road
47 Benning Road

Compass Drive

103 Compass Drive
105 Compass Drive
106 Compass Drive
108 Compass Drive
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Delaware Avenue

200 Delaware Avenue
202 Delaware Avenue
204 Delaware Avenue
308 Delaware Avenue
312 Delaware Avenue
314 Delaware Avenue
316 Delaware Avenue
321 Delaware Avenue
323 Delaware Avenue
603 Delaware Avenue
607 Delaware Avenue
608 Delaware Avenue
609 Delaware Avenue
612 Delaware Avenue
615 Delaware Avenue
616 Delaware Avenue
623 Delaware Avenue
624 Delaware Avenue

Glenrock Drive

1 Glenrock Drive
3 Glenrock Drive
4 Glenrock Drive
7 Glenrock Drive
9 Glenrock Drive
11 Glenrock Drive
14 Glenrock Drive
16 Glenrock Drive
17 Glenrock Drive
18 Glenrock Drive
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Harvey Road

907 Harvey Road
911 Harvey Road

Hilldale Court

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Honeywell Drive

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Madison Avenue

2707 Madison Avenue
2710 Madison Avenue
2711 Madison Avenue
2804 Madison Avenue
2805 Madison Avenue
2806 Madison Avenue

Miles Road

2 Miles Road
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New York Avenue

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317 New York Avenue
318 New York Avenue
320 New York Avenue
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Newcomb Court

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Olympia Drive

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Osage Road

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Pennsylvania Avenue

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514 Pennsylvania Avenue
515 Pennsylvania Avenue
516 Pennsylvania Avenue
518 Pennsylvania Avenue
520 Pennsylvania Avenue
801 Pennsylvania Avenue
805 Pennsylvania Avenue

Wentworth Drive

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Woodgreen Court

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Woodgreen Road

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133 Woodgreen Road

New Playground Equipment for Radnor Green Park

Right before this newsletter went to publication we were contacted by New Castle County and informed that our park has been selected to receive new playground equipment.

The civic association was pleased to hear that we had been selected and that the equipment would be replaced without any cost to our community. The county has asked that anyone with concerns regarding this upgrade to the existing equipment please attend the April association meeting to voice their concerns.

Since this was just announced we do not have any information regarding when this equipment will be replaced. If you are interested in hearing about this we encourage you to attend the April Association meeting where representatives of the county will be in attendance to answer any questions.

House Bill 284 introduced to assist communities with ice storm costs

Bryon Short, the State Representative for the 7th District, attended our January civic association meeting. One of the items Bryon mentioned at our meeting is legislation he introduced on January 10th that would assist communities such as ours with the costs associated with sanding the streets due to ice storms. House Bill 284, if enacted, would extend the current reimbursement program that is in place for snow storms to include ice storms. The majority of the storms our community had to deal with last year consisted mostly of ice not snow. Since these storms did not reach the minimum accumulation of snow we were not reimbursed for any of our “snow” removal expenses.

Bryon has been a regular attendee at our community’s civic association meetings. This legislation is another example of Bryon’s commitment to our community and the problems that directly affect us. If you would like to contact Bryon you can go to his website at <http://www.bryonshort.com/home.html> or via email at electbryonshort@aol.com.

We would also encourage everyone to attend our meetings so you get the opportunity to meet Bryon and discuss your concerns with him in person.

Community Survey Results

We would like to once again thank everyone who took the time to return their dues payments and completed the include survey.

We are working as quickly as possible to compile the email addresses so we can begin sending information out to everyone in a quick and convenient format. Several of the returned surveys indicated people wanted to receive one or more items via email; however, no email addresses were provided. If everyone who wishes to receive items could send an email to board@radnorgreen.com that would speed up the process of putting together the email list(s). On the email please indicate what item(s) you wish to receive via email (Newsletter, Dues notices, Community Watch info, Meeting Notices). If you returned your survey with your dues and provided an email address you should start getting messages shortly. We have had issues trying to “decipher” some of the addresses so by all means send an email to board@radnorgreen.com and we will confirm your correct address was received and has been included on the appropriate distribution list(s).

RGCA
P.O. Box 262
Claymont, DE 19703