



Green Acres NEWS

Autumn
2021

Green Acres Civic Association • PO Box 295 • Claymont, DE 19703

www.greenacrescivic.org

Mark Your Calendars

Fall Yard Sale	Saturday, October 2, 2021	
Large Trash Pickup	Saturday, October 9, 2021 Dues paid residents ONLY.	7:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.
Membership Meeting	November 17, 2021	via Zoom (details to follow)

2021 Green Acres Civic Association Officers

Dave White, President	302-479-9221
Jim Storment, Vice President	585-503-9953
Patti Powers, Treasurer	302-384-8215
Susan Lovejoy Storment, Corresponding Secretary	585-503-9953
Marie-Anne Aghazadian, Recording Secretary	302-478-8327
Mike Curry, Newsletter Editor	302-477-1150

Important Numbers to Have Handy

New Castle County Rep.: John Cartier	302-395-8348
New Castle County Executive: Matt Meyer ..	302-395-5101
State Representative: Debra Heffernan.....	302-577-8476
State Senator: Kyle Evans Gay	302-744-4137
Governor: John Carney	302-577-3210

Curb Appeal

Ah, the elusive curb appeal! As you drive around Wilmington, you can immediately identify the houses that have it and others that could use some lovin'. There are even neighborhoods that are considered more desirable based on the condition of the homes. There are some obvious ways to keep your home looking good: mowed lawn, trimmed trees and shrubs, clean, working cars around the home, debris and garbage removed, toys and tools stored away, etc. But what are ways that you can improve your property and elevate the Green Acres neighborhood? Here is a list of easy ways to improve the appearance of your house.



Entrance:

- Paint your front door – this can really update and make your home look welcoming and refreshed
- Add new house numbers – this can make locating your residence easier (especially for deliveries and even emergencies) – make sure they are not obscured, are large enough to be visible and even add lighting
- Door hardware – this is the jewelry of your door – make it special. Take a look at what would complement the style of your home and enhance the entry

Continued on back page

Letter from the President



By the time this newsletter hits the streets, the official start of fall will only be a few days away. The Green Acres pool is closed, and the kids are back in school. It's always hard to say goodbye to the vacations and fun outdoor activities of summer, but it's time to let them transition to the realm of fond memories. We hope your summer was a good one.

Many of us who had high hopes that the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine would allow us to return to a more or less normal lifestyle ended the season with a sense of disappointment, as a highly contagious variant of the virus emerged, keeping us masked and selective about mass gatherings. Hard to believe I'm having to say the same thing I said in the winter 2020 newsletter: please stay safe, and heed the advice of medical and public health experts. Maybe we'll turn the corner in the fall?

After a break from meetings in July and August, your civic association officers and district representatives convened again on September 15 to discuss matters of interest to the community. Items on the agenda included plans for upcoming large trash pickup and an enhanced yard sale in October.

We also discussed plans for bringing our organization's revised bylaws before all members (i.e. you) for a ratification vote. These bylaws are the set of rules by which the civic association is governed, and among other things they define the duties of each office, how finances are handled, and the frequency of public meetings. A volunteer committee worked for months to carefully modernize and improve the bylaws so they better reflect our current needs and resources, and now they need to be approved by our members in order to become official. Watch your email inbox, the GACA website (greenacrescivic.org), and the Facebook group (Green Acres Neighbor Connection Delaware) for upcoming information about this important vote that requires your participation!

Neither the ongoing pandemic nor the higher than average heat and rainfall this summer seemed to dampen the enthusiasm of home buyers for Green Acres real estate listings. Two of three houses that sold in the last three months went for more than the listing price. Year-to-date, the trend is the same, with houses staying on the market for a very short time and in many cases, due to interest from multiple bidders, going for more than the owner was originally asking. This is, of course, reflective of a hot home sale market across the country (an overheated market, some would say), but I would also note that Green Acres has outperformed the larger Brandywine Hundred market in average days on market before sale. Our neighborhood is a great place to live, and a great investment!

Dave,

President GACA

Large Trash Collection Saturday, October 9, 2021 7am – 9:30am.

This event is ONLY for residents who have paid their dues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (ending 10/31/21). No past due 2020-21 dues will be collected after October 2nd. Call Patti Powers at 302-384-8215, if you wish to check your status or pay prior to October 2.

Put the items you wish to dispose of on your FRONT CURB in front of YOUR HOUSE. Items placed between homes of paid and unpaid homes make it difficult to determine whose items can be picked up. This happens more than you may imagine and we typically leave the items.

We will start collecting trash and yard waste at 7:00AM and make ONE trip through the neighborhood picking up Trash and Yard Waste at the same time. We expect to finish around 9:30AM. Due to the time schedule, **we can't come back around to pick up items put out late.** Items put on the curb after 7:00AM may be missed. If possible, put your items out 3 days earlier than the day of our event.

Typical items we pick-up are washers and dryers, appliances, furniture—inside and outside, exercise equipment, lawn mowers, grills, open latex paint cans, basketball hoops, household items, light construction materials, old bikes, etc. **We can't pick up multiple (10+) bags of drywall** or all items from a major house remodel job. Please hang a "trash" sign on any basketball hoops to be collected.



Latex paint cans **MUST** be OPEN and the paint **MUST** be dry inside. We suggest you open the cans weeks ahead of the Large Trash pick up to dry out the paint. **Unopened cans will be left behind.**

Tree limbs or branches must be shorter than 96" (8 feet). Smaller branches should be bundled for easy pick-up. We can't haul away tree trunks or a lot of tree trunk sections.

Freon items must have the freon removed. I have secured a contractor who will remove the freon and label the item to be discarded. The fee is \$5.00 for EACH item. Please call me with your address so I can schedule this service for you at least 1 week prior to our event.

Items we CAN'T pick-up are: Tires, roof shingles, asbestos items, solvents, batteries, oil based paints, chemicals, filled propane tanks, items with gasoline still in the tank, oil, items still containing Freon, sections of concrete, TV's, electronics, and computers.

I work with two local metal scrappers who scour our neighborhood for metal items. I encourage you to put metal items out days early to give them time to help clear out the metal items. We pay WM by the hour and by the weight of disposal. Anything taken by the scrappers helps our financial bottom line.

If you have any questions PRIOR to Saturday morning, please call Lou Fortunato at 478-8664 to discuss your concerns or volunteer to help load the truck. **If you have an excess amount of trash or yard waste, an additional fee may be requested. Please call Lou if you might have an excess number of items.**

Curb Appeal, continued from page 1.

- Potted plants – use plants to frame the entrance choosing seasonal plantings that are colorful and interesting

The front yard:

- Mowed lawn—there's nothing more enticing than a manicured lawn to suggest a well maintained property
- Trimmed shrubs and trees – they should frame your house and showcase that refreshed entry you just did – avoid hiding your house behind your trees and shrubs
- Lights—updated lighting can make your home look more current and attractive and provide added security
- Landscape lighting—long paths and lighting shrubs, trees and your home, landscape lights highlight the beauty of your yard and provide an easy path into your property

At the curb:

- Repair driveway—a clean, smooth driveway indicates

a well maintained property—it can be easy to patch if you'd like to avoid replacement

- Edge sidewalk—along with maintaining cracks, edging the grass along the sidewalk refines the appearance of your home
- Clean debris from yard—keeps things tidy by picking up after you've worked on your home or the kids have gone inside for the day

I'm sure you can think of many other ways to improve your curb appeal and also express your creativity and appreciation for a well loved home.



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DOUBLE D HOME IMPROVEMENTS

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