



Green Acres

NEWS

SUMMER
July 2025

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

www.greenacrescivic.org

Mark Your Calendars



Independence Day Parade	Green Acres Pool	Friday, July 4, 10:00 A.M.
Annual Block Party	Green Acres Pool	Saturday, August 23 (rain date Aug. 24)

Current Green Acres Civic Association Officers

Dave White, President	302-479-9221
Anita Nicholson, Vice President	302-354-0947
Lowen Wilmer, Treasurer	484-557-9446
Lois Helmerson	
Corresponding Secretary	302-478-1095
Saundra Hayward, Recording Secretary	302-463-9982
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: Sarah McBride	302-744-4147
Governor: John Carney	302-577-3210

District Representatives

District	Name	District	Name
1	Lou Fortunato	9	Marion Ehrlich
2	Nancy Plerhoples	10	Barb Forehand
3	Laura Heiser	11	George Hall
4	Ruth Govatos	12	Patti Powers
5	Dianne Seidel	13/14	Brian Smith & Lowen Wilmer
6	Mike Moran	15	OPEN
7	Linda Diana	16	Rosetta Dixon
8	Joanne Grimsley		

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE



Green Acres residents are welcome to join us for our annual Independence Day celebration. (We are researching how long this tradition has been carried out — we're pretty sure it is more than 40 years!)

DUES SPENDING BREAKDOWN

We frequently encourage residents of Green Acres to pay their civic association dues — in the newsletters, in yard signs, in announcements at gatherings. The rather modest fee of \$35 per household allows us to provide all of the services and great traditions that help make our neighborhood a community. Still, on a good year, only 75% to 80% of households send a payment.

We thought you might be interested to see a breakdown of how the money was actually spent in 2024. We are careful stewards of these funds!

Category	Percentage	Description
Events	51%	Large trash pickup, block party, spring & fall yard sale ads, Easter egg hunt, July 4th parade
Snow Removal	27%	Winter of '23-'24 only produced one snowfall that met New Castle County's reimbursement threshold of four inches.
Utilities	6%	Delmarva Power (street lights)
Communication	5%	Newsletter printing & delivery, website hosting, new homeowner gift bags, Zoom subscription (for monthly meetings), signs
Taxes & Insurance	4%	Liability insurance, franchise tax
Landscaping/Maintenance	4%	Quincy entrance island mowing, mulching, planting
Administrative expenses	3%	Dues notices/labels/envelopes, postage, box rental, bank fees
Charitable Donations	<1%	Brandywine Hundred Fire company
Memberships	<1%	Council of Civic Organizations of Brandywine Hundred

The parade will start at 10:00 AM on Friday, July 4th at the Green Acres Pool on Grinnell Road. After a reverent instrumental performance of The National Anthem by neighbor Mark Huxsoll, the crowd will proceed around the block, led by a fire engine from the Brandywine Hundred Fire Company.

As usual, there will be contests after the parade for best decorated stroller/wagon, bike, and scooter. There will be first, second, and third place prizes for each category. Snacks will be sponsored by GACA. Thanks to GARA for allowing us to use their grounds. We hope to see you there!

FORWOOD COMMONS

We frequently hear questions about the status of Forwood Commons, the mixed-use community planned for the area behind Shoppes of Grayln that was cleared of trees almost two years ago. Earlier this month, I spoke with Joseph Setting II, president of Setting Properties, Inc., the company that is developing the property.

Mr. Setting said that, despite the absence of visible construction activity at the site, which will eventually boast five buildings with 33K sq. ft. of commercial space and 40 townhomes, the project is steadily moving forward. Setting is in the process of attracting the final retail tenants and converting letters of intent to signed leases. This background work will continue through summer.

A builder has been selected, Setting said, but he

was not prepared to disclose the name. He expects construction to resume this fall and, if all goes well, for the project to be completed in about 24 months.



A replica of the stone schoolhouse design built on the site in 1799 will be reconstructed using the original stones, which were removed when the site was cleared and are being preserved in storage.

An additional traffic light will be installed on Silverside Road at the entrance of new development, which will be directly across from the entrance to Branmar Plaza. Dedicated turn lanes will be created on both the Forwood Commons and Branmar sides of the road.

Other Setting Properties projects include Village of Brandywine (on 202 near the Pennsylvania state line), and a downstate townhome project called Lewes Waterfront Preserve.

VEOLIA BILLS

Unfortunately, we feel it is important to once again caution Green Acres residents to carefully examine your Veolia water bills. Two separate neighbors have reported they were billed excessively high amounts -- 10 times their actual usage! Veolia corrected the bills

in both cases after the errors were pointed out, but you have to wonder if they would have sent a refund if the customers had never made noise? Double-check your bills, especially if you are set up for automatic payment!

2025 SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

GACA will once again be sponsoring a summer block party at the Green Acres pool. Our target date this year is Saturday, August 23, with a rain date of Sunday, August 24. The party will start at 2:00 in the afternoon and run until 8:00 P.M.

We'll have all the usual attractions:

- Grilled burgers and hot dogs, chips, soft pretzels and water ice
- Soft drinks and water for all. Juice boxes for the young ones. Beer for the grown-ups! (Watch for an RSVP form coming soon -- your responses help us know how much food to buy.)
- Swimming, a bouncy house, a cornhole tournament, and lawn games.
- We will be raffling off multiple, themed gift baskets, so remember to bring a few extra dollars.
- We'll once again have a professional DJ to keep the energy high!
- Please bring your own lawn chairs. Feel free to BYOB.

The annual block parties are part of the general mission of the civic association to foster connections and increase the sense of community in our neighborhood. We look forward to hanging out with you and having some fun!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Meet with household members to discuss the dangers of fire, severe weather and other emergencies. Explain how to respond to each.
- Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.
- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Show family members how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches when necessary.
- Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick two emergency meeting places. 1) A place near your home in case of fire. 2) A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.

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