



Green Acres NEWS

AUTUMN
September 2025

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

www.greenacrescivic.org

Mark Your Calendars



Community Yard Sale	Green Acres	Sat.–Sun., October 4–5 8 A.M.–2:00 P.M.
Monthly GACA Council Meeting	Zoom	October 15, 7:00 P.M.
Annual GACA Full Membership Meeting	Zoom	January 21, 2016, 7:00 P.M.

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 Sec.	302-478-1095
Saundra Hayward, Recording Secretary	302-463-9982
Mike Curry, Newsletter Editor	302-477-1150

Important Numbers To Have Handy

County Rep.: John Cartier	302-395-8348
County Executive: Marcus Henry	302-395z-5101
State Rep. (RD6): Debra Heffernan	302-577-8476
State Senator: Dan Cruce	302-744-4147
Governor: Matt Meyer	302-744-4101

Summer block party recap

GACA's annual neighborhood block party took place at the Green Acres pool on August 23. Sincere thanks to the volunteers planned, shopped, and grilled, making the event a huge success for the fourth year in a row!



The weather on the day of the party was gorgeous — sunny and breezy with a high of 81°. More than a hundred members came out to enjoy grilled burgers, beer, and conversation with their neighbors. As usual, the party featured swimming, a bounce house, and raffles. Sixteen teams participated in the cornhole tournament this year! Our DJ provided an hour of karaoke time, which was a big hit with the kids, most of whom wanted to sing “APT.” by ROSÉ & Bruno Mars.

Come join us when we do it again next year!

Large trash pickup postponed

The community large trash pickup event, usually held the weekend after the fall community yard sale, is being postponed this year and will be held in the spring of 2026. The civic association Council has taken this measure to conserve cash for snow removal this winter.

The large trash pickup is the most expensive annual event sponsored by GACA, and given the lower than usual dues collection rates this year (see “Your Civic Association” article in this newsletter for details), Council decided it would be prudent to get through the snow season and collect next year's dues before offering this popular but costly service.

Dues collection

Article II of the Green Acres Civic Association Bylaws states: “The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the general welfare of the Green Acres community.” We do this through the generous volunteer efforts of our officers and district reps and the voluntary dues paid by our homeowners.

GACA's annual dues of \$35 are still relatively low compared to neighboring communities, not to mention communities with HOAs who pay for their snow removal and community upkeep through mandatory dues and assessments. For the last five years, members have been able to pay dues via check or PayPal, and we will soon offer additional simple, electronic payment options.

Despite the low cost, ease of payment, and frequent reminders of the benefits GACA brings to our community, 88 of our 376 households did not pay their dues in 2025. While the association is still financially sound, this lower than normal collection rate led us to postpone the large trash pickup event that is usually held in the fall. We need to make sure we have ample cash on hand to pay for street clearing this winter on the chance that we have multiple, major snowfall events.

If you are one of the 88 households that has not paid dues, please consider paying your share!

Revised tax bills

After all the reassessment hoopla over the summer, official sources say revised tax bills reflecting the new school tax rates should be in the mail the first week of October. A flyer will be included with your bill explaining the process.

You can find your new assessed property value and tax amount on the county's tax parcel search at <https://www3.newcastlede.gov/parcel/search/>

The revised due date for New Castle County and school district taxes is November 30, 2025.

News about GACA officers

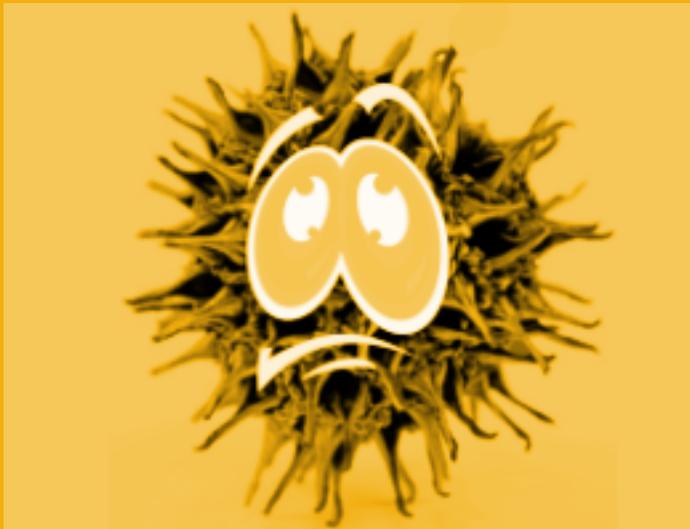
TREASURER: Lowen Wilmer of Fresno Road stepped up to fill the office of GACA treasurer when Ted Carl resigned from the position this summer. Lowen and her husband, Brian Smith, have served as district 13 & 14 representatives for the civic association for many years, but moving into a board office is something new for her. Lowen's committing to this crucial role is greatly appreciated by the community!

PRESIDENT: The office of GACA president will be up for election during the full membership meeting on January 21, 2026, when current president Dave White's second full term will be expiring. (The organization's bylaws restrict officers from serving more than two terms, not including interim terms.) We encourage qualified neighbors to consider submitting your name to greenacrescivic@gmail.com by January 1.

What are the president's duties? Here's what the bylaws say: "The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall preside at all meetings of the Association and meetings of the Council. The president shall see

that all resolutions of the Association are put into effect. The president shall also appoint committees and approve the person who will review finances annually." Beyond the letter of the law, you will encourage the flow of useful information between GACA and the neighborhood, and you will foster a collaborative spirit and boost good ideas wherever they come from.

What are the skills and qualifications for this role? All board offices are open to members in good standing whose names appear in the county property records as a Green Acres homeowner. To be the president in particular, you should be experienced with conducting respectful, orderly meetings that follow parliamentary procedure. You must be willing to follow and enforce the GACA bylaws. You must be willing to take calls and emails from Green Acres residents about neighborhood concerns and then contact utilities, agencies, and elected officials as appropriate. You should have a desire to make our neighborhood a better place to live and set aside some time each week to work toward the common good!



Seasonal reminders

- Soon it will be time for leaves and those spiky menaces known as "monkeyballs" (a.k.a. sweetgum seed pods) to start falling in great quantities. Please be respectful of the neighborhood's many walkers and keep your driveways and sidewalks clear!
- If there is a storm drain near your home, be a good neighbor and periodically check to make sure it is all clear and ready to handle storm water runoff. The storm drain grates get blocked by sticks, grass and trash during the rainy season, which causes water to flood the streets during heavy storms.



Autumn ivy removal

(Contributed by Lowen Wilmer)

When we bought our home in Green Acres it was our first, and we were not smart! We loved the trees and thought the ivy growing up them was beautiful – we had no idea how bad ivy is for trees and that it can kill them! In case we aren't the only ones that just didn't know — removing it yourself is a task that can be done just once a year. Visit the GACA website at <https://greenacrescivic.org> and scroll down for a version of this article with links to instructional videos. If you're not a DIY type, keep an eye on the website for any deals with local contractors we may negotiate for the neighborhood.

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