

# Holiday Hills Civic Association

PO Box 8178, Wilmington, DE 19803-9997

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/holidayhills/main.html>

## **What is the HHCA**-First of a series

I have found that many people do not know what HHCA is. There is too much to cover at one time, so this is the first of a series to try to explain what it is, what it is supposed to do and what it does.

The purpose of the Association is to promote the general welfare of the Holiday Hills Community. All residents of Holiday Hills eighteen (18) years of age and over are eligible for membership. It is not a homeowners association nor social group.

It is an entity in the state of Delaware to whom we pay a franchise fee to stay in existence. It has all the legal things a business needs to operate and because of that state connection, we can take part in state programs like Snow Removal Reimbursement. That program has allowed HHCA to keep its dues the same for over twenty years.

It is the liaison between us as a community and our elected officials such as State Rep. Bryon Short. As such, we can invite them to our meetings to air our thoughts and hear what they have to say. This was done in July of this year. The results are below. This is good start, but we also have other people representing us that we need to meet with.

*More next time.*

**Due collection.** Our dues are primarily used for snow plowing. Typically we start in the fall for the next winter. The due collected last year (2008) was for the 2008-09 winter. There was some confusion and many people wound up paying late (in 2009). The dues being collected now are for the 2009-10 season. When we collect next year (after April) it will be for the 2010-11 winter.

**Sand Barrels.** The sand barrels are provided by the state for the community's use. It is the mixture of sand and salt used on the highways. Please use them to salt the intersection. It is always nice if someone provides a homemade scoop.

## **Changes**

You probably noticed the newsletter has a new look. **Liana Pope**, elected secretary last year, has moved away. We extend our thanks to her for her service to our community. **We are in need of a secretary and/or someone to do the newsletter.**

**HHCA Council and Policy.** HHCA has made some policy changes. Announced At our last meeting was the formation of the HHCA council per our By-Laws and people were asked to volunteer to serve on it until we have an election. Two people **Jim Lehr and Don Maristch** stepped up to serve their community. The council met for the first time on October 3, 2009. The council will meet every three months or as needed. We agreed to some changes in policy that should help us to function more efficiently.

1. The new Fiscal year will be April to March.

2. Our annual meeting will be held in April. At this meeting the officers and council will be elected and a schedule for the year's activities be established, including the time to collect dues.

Special meetings will be held to meet politicians, police, etc. or as needed

**Would you like to be on the HHCA council?**

## **Snow Plowing 2009-10**

We will have a different snow plowing contractor this year. Here are some things you should be aware of:

- **Residents may request to have their driveways cleared for \$35 per driveway.**

Notify the contractor while he is plowing or by calling his cell phone.(302-377-4575) Payment is due prior to the driveway being plowed.

- Prior to the snow season, hazards will be identified and staked by the contractor. Please do not allow children to remove or play with the stakes, as they are an important once the ground is snow-covered (and cost money).
- Where possible, residents should remove vehicles from the street.
- Immediately report any turf damage resulting from plowing within 48 hours. Repairs and reseedling of any turf damage resulting from plowing will be done in the following spring. If possible, please provide pictures of damage via email.

## Results Meeting with Rep. Bryon Short

**Bryon Short** attended our July 29<sup>th</sup> HHCA meeting at Saint David's Church. Our residents had a chance to talk with him and state some of our needs. Here is the out come of that meeting:

1. A Request was made for a **street light at Grubb and Coventry** entrance has been made. The paper work to get it done is in the works.
2. Missing **Speed bump markers** on Coventry Drive have been replaced and the speed bumps are due to be repainted.
3. Some Holiday Hills II residents on Jamaica Drive requested **speed control measures**. A survey is scheduled to find out what percentage of residents living there agrees, afterwards the state will seek a plan of action to alleviate the problem.
4. There was a complaint about an electrical box in the yard of at 2107 Coventry Drive . It appeared as if a squirrel made a home there. Verizon has resealed the box with plastic strips.
5. Neighbors near the Marsh/Orchard Road entrance were concerned about what seemed to be a high incident area. Rep. Short is going to have the incident reports checked for the occurrences and seek a remedy.

### Other Things Discussed at the meeting

**Dues collection.** The following people volunteered to collect dues for these blocks: **Ada Betancourt**-2200 Coventry Drive; **Pat Powell**-2100 Coventry Drive; **Don Maristch**-Lower Jamaica; **Mona Stenz**-Grubb Road; and **Betsy Mullan**-Westminster Drive.

They will be contacted at the appropriate time. **If you think, you would like to volunteer to collect on your block, please contact any officer or member of the council.**

There was discussion on bringing back the **Block Captains**. That will be followed up at a later date. These people will be the link between the resident and the council to insure resident concerns are met.

**Solicitors** -There was a lot discussion on the subject with no real resolution, but here are some things you can do. You can call Consumer Protection with the Delaware Department of Justice 1-800-220-5424 or 577-8600 and Contact New Castle County Rep. John Cartier or Bob Weiner to express that residents want more done on county and state levels to stop door to door solicitation.

There was talk of getting into the **Recycle bank** program (<https://www.recyclebank.com/>). In it, your recyclables are picked up free and you get rewards for it.

## The Newsletter is going into Cyberspace

As we said in the last newsletter, there are tools available to have information sent directly to you. To do that we need your contact information. If you did not get a copy of this newsletter by e-mail, please send your address phone number and e-mail address to **HHCA Vice President Kirk Stenz** at grubbinn21@verizon.net so that we can have that information in our file. Eventually, we would like to send out the newsletter by e-mail and publish it in cyberspace rather than in paper form. This would save trees, save on printing costs and it is the fastest and most efficient way to communicate.

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## The Holiday Hills Newsletter Online

Holiday Hills Civic Association has a web page hosted by neighborhoodlink.com. The address is shown at the top of the front page.

We extend our thanks to **Mike Schiff** for filling in as "webmaster" but we are looking for someone to volunteer to take over or help with our site.

The address is long, but you can "bookmark" the site or put it under your "favorites" and just access our page with a click of your mouse.

The newsletter can be found under the heading **Our Info** (on the right) – **Newsletters**. Then just scroll down and click on the latest edition: **Fall 2009**.

We are just beginning in cyberspace and we need all the help and support we can get. Again, eventually, we would like to publish our newsletter only in cyberspace. This would not only save trees and printing costs but it will allow each of us to have links to all of the politicians, agencies, etc. we have to contact.

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## To Our Newer Residents

When you were looking for a house something in this community appealed to you. What you saw did not happen by itself, it took a lot hard work by residents over the last 50 years to make it that way. To keep HHCA that way requires a lot of people doing a little or it falls on a few to do a lot to keep it going. **To find out how you can help, contact any officer or council member. As you can see, there is a lot to do.**

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**Questions?** Feel free to contact any of the current Holiday Hills Civic Association Officers:

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*This edition of the Newsletter prepared By C. Green*