

THE ASHBOURNE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Ashbourne Hills Civic Association P.O. Box 223, Claymont, DE 19703

www.neighborhoodlink.com/claymont/ashbourne ashbournehills@gmail.com 302.798.1563

First and foremost we would like to extend our thanks to all those who came out to our community-wide meeting on November 14, 2007. It was truly a success with more than 30 households represented. Compared to previous years this is a big improvement. Our next meeting will be February 13, 2008 at a new time of 7:30pm to allow for dinnertime. We look forward to seeing everyone again and if each person brought one neighbor we could double our attendance! We were also very fortunate to have State Representative Bryon Short, Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation's (CRDC) Executive Director Brett Sadler, and a representative from Councilman John Cartier's office present at the meeting to help address questions. We discussed many issues such as the progress of the Brook View redevelopment project, snowplowing, dues, charity initiatives, and we briefly reviewed the calendar of upcoming events for the rest of 2007 and 2008.

Community News

The status of the Claymont Renaissance Brook View redevelopment project has been one of the top concerns for the neighborhood and keeping you all informed of the progress is one of the AHCA's priorities. Based on a recently adjusted timetable, the project is actually two weeks ahead of schedule. Before they could begin it was necessary to first remove all hazardous materials and demolition will commence very soon, starting with the sections adjacent to Darley Road. In response to the many concerns about the road blocks and restricted access to Claymont Elementary School and Green Street, they are trying to open up the streets as soon as possible. They are also working on the properties near the school while school is out of session. Mid January is the target date for re-opening the roads connecting Ashbourne Hills to Green Street. Once work has begun, the hours of demo & construction will generally be 8am - 3pm, in order to maintain respect for Ashbourne Hills residents whose properties back up to the project site. On Tuesday November 20, 2007 a ceremonial smashing of the first building will take place at 10:15am at Darley Road and Linden Street. To obtain more information on the Claymont Redevelopment Plan and to view concept sketches visit the CRDC's website at www.claymontrenaissance.org.

Snowplowing is another key priority on the Civic Association's agenda. Although we had a very mild winter last year, weather forecasters are calling for a long winter this year and the AHCA is prepared to make sure we are able to get in and out of our neighborhood. We will be utilizing the same contractor that we used last year and we will put bids out again next year to ensure we are getting the best price for the best service. It should be noted that three inches of snow (as measured at the Philadelphia Airport) are required in order for a snow-plowing, and at four inches we can receive some reimbursement from the state. So hope for no snow or tons! To ensure a pleasant winter and snow-plow season please **keep these helpful tips in mind: 1. Remove all cars from the streets - the plow will stay far away from parked cars and may not be able to plow entire circles if there are too many cars parked in the cul-de-sac; 2. YOU are responsible for clearing your sidewalk, not the county or snow-plow; 3. Pay your dues - you never know how much snow will fall and having plenty of funds on hand will allow us to continue providing the much needed snow-plow services from year to year without having to recollect.** We will do our best to keep everyone informed when the snow-plow will be coming through our neighborhood by updating the AHCA hotline (phone number above) and the website (click on Winter Weather Updates). However, we may not always be able to reach everyone or have enough notice. So if we have at least three inches, expect the snow-plow and be prepared.

Dues are used primarily for funding the snow-plowing, but they also allow us to host all the fun community events that we have planned as well as provide the tools necessary to react to changing neighborhood issues (Brookview now, section 8 housing a few years ago, etc.) As a reminder each household is responsible for paying only \$20.00 for the entire year. As of November 14, 2007 we have received dues from 190 houses. A good start before the deadline, but that is only 31% of the neighborhood – we can do better than that!! We extend our gratitude to all who have paid. A complete list of houses that are up-to-date on their dues payments can be found on the AHCA website (click on Dues Payments). If you are renting, be sure your landlord is informed of the due dates. If you are unable to pay on time, talk to us, we are happy to work with you.

Anyone still needing to remit their payment can send their check made out to Ashbourne Hills Civic Association to P.O. Box 223, Claymont, DE 19703. Again, we appreciate your support and look forward to receiving your dues by 11/30/2007.

Upcoming Events

The AHCA is pleased to announce we will be sponsoring a **Thanksgiving Food Drive** which we hope to make an annual event. Thanks to everyone who has donated already. Just a few cans from each household really adds up! If you would like to contribute please drop your canned or non-perishable food items at 36 Ruby Drive, on Wednesday 11/21/07 4pm–7pm – just drop off on porch or ring bell and say “hi” to your new president, Ian Smith. We will be donating everything to the Claymont Food Closet at the Claymont Community Center that night so please be prompt or call ahead, it closes at 8pm. We will also be contributing to the **Adopt-a-Family** program as coordinated through the Claymont Community Center. Please help by submitting monetary or gift card only donations to the AHCA no later than 12/3/2007. In the meeting we also discussed different ways we could help those in our own community that may not be able to get out and do certain things, such as mow lawns, clean gutters, shovel walks, etc. If anyone is interested in lending their time to help out a neighbor or if anyone has any other ideas on things we could do, please contact us. If you need help, call us!

There are many fun events that we have planned for the coming year. With everyone’s support and participation they should be a great success. **Our next community event will be a Holiday Decorations contest.** Beginning on December 1, 2007 everyone is encouraged to decorate their home for the holidays. It does not have to cost a fortune and it is not limited to any particular religious affiliation. It does, however, need to be creative! Judging and the selection of winners will occur on December 31, 2007. Winners are decided by the officers and the officers are not eligible for the prize. 1st place winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate to the Super Fresh in Holly Oak, because we want to help give back to our community while having fun. 2nd place winner will receive the same in the amount of \$50, and the 3rd place winner will get a \$25 gift card.

Our Website

Our website has undergone many updates, some of which are referenced above. You will be able to find more details from our November 14, 2007 meeting by clicking on Meeting Minutes. Also on our website is a re-cap of the Halloween Parade & Social as well as Trick-or-Treat 2007; click on Halloween 2007. There are pictures and slideshows of the festivities and if you would like to add your own, please email the AHCA. We have put a page on the site dedicated to Local Merchants and Service Providers. If anyone would like to be listed on this directory (Tutors, Babysitters, Skin-Care Distributors, Handymen, Contractors, Lawn Mowers, Dog Walkers, etc.) just send us an email with your information. Anyone in need of any of the above (or other) services simply review this list before checking the phone book. Why not help support our local businesses and young entrepreneurs whenever possible? Additionally, we have a discussion board, available for anyone to post an issue or topic of conversation in which they would like to engage the community. This is also a great way to make the AHCA aware of any new problems or issues that come up. The calendar of upcoming events is available online as well. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to request a hard copy of any of the above please call the AHCA hotline.

Don’t forget, our next community-wide meeting will be on February 13, 2008 at the Darley Road Elementary School at 7:30pm. Don’t forget to bring Campbell’s soup labels and General Mills Boxtops for Education to help support the school. You are going to throw them out, may as well use them to help lower your taxes!