

## **Annual Meeting:**

**Wednesday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Brandywood annual meeting will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the café of the Foulk Road Library. Topics include a dues increase, snow removal and island maintenance. Prior to the meeting, there will be a **"meet the candidates"** event at 6:00 p.m. in the same room. State Representative Bryon Short and challenger Judy Travis will be there. Also attending will be New Castle County Councilman Bob Weiner and challenger Mike Annone. Each will give a five minute presentation followed by a brief question and answer period. Please bring your 2011 dues check with you to the annual meeting! We will be accepting checks in advance of your director contacting you.

## **Brandywood-Chalfonte Halloween Parade:**

**Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

The annual joint Halloween parade will be from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Brandywood Elementary School on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. In the event of rain, all activities will be held indoors. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Kathleen Carr at 472-3485 or email [thecarrs13@msn.com](mailto:thecarrs13@msn.com).

## **Notice of dues increase:**

This is to inform all residents that the 2011 dues will be \$50 per household. This may seem to be a significant increase, but this is the first increase in eighteen years. Please know that the board made this decision after much calculation and deliberation. The snow removal costs from the 2009-2010 season severely depleted the treasury, totaling almost \$15,000. It was only by the board's judicious use of existing funds and partial reimbursement from the state that we avoided a second collection. Many other neighborhoods needed a second collection in order to pay their plowing service. Also note, the board decides annually what the upcoming year's dues will be based on our current funds and expenditures. The dues may decrease for 2012, but will likely never return to \$35. The civic association appreciates everyone's understanding and support. We are requesting that dues be paid to your director by December 31, 2010.

## **Snow removal:**

The civic association board is contracting with a new plowing service for the upcoming winter season. It was obvious to all that our former service was unable to satisfactorily plow large amounts of snow. If you are essential medical personnel or have a serious medical condition that requires access to main roads, please contact Dan Berry at 475-0650. He will try to have your area plowed first in the event of heavy snowfall. It is essential that all neighbors remove their cars from the streets prior to snowfall to ensure the best plowing results. Thank you to the McInnis family and all of the unsung heroes who took care of our elderly neighbors during the blizzards!

## **Vandalism:**

Once again, we have received reports of nighttime vandalism, particularly on cars parked in driveways. The board strongly urges neighbors to leave your front porch light on all night. If you have a car parked in your driveway or on the street, either leave the lamppost or light over the garage on. Installing a motion-activated light is also a smart solution. Keep all car doors locked!

## **Trash service offer:**

Independent Disposal Services (IDS) is offering a volume discount for weekly trash pickup in Brandywood. If they receive twenty-five more customers prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>, they will discount the normal rate of \$25.50 per month to \$23. Senior citizen rates would decrease from \$24 per month to \$21.50. Yard waste pickup is available for an additional fee. Call IDS at (302) 378-5400 for more details or to sign up.

### **Deed Restrictions:**

We remind our neighbors that the civic association has deed restrictions in place. If you are changing the exterior of your home, such as fences, sheds, additions, or siding, your plans should be routed to the board through your director. The plans are emailed to board members and are usually approved promptly.

### **Tree Service:**

American Arborist Tree Service of Claymont has an offer for Brandywood residents. For any proper tree trimming, removal or stump grinding, they will donate 5% of the total bill to Brandywood Civic Association. Contact owner Todd Whitfield at (302) 893-2748 for a free estimate.

### **Brandywood PTA request:**

Brandywood Elementary PTA Rebates Committee requests all of our neighbors to save the following items to help earn money for our school: proofs of purchases for Campbell's and Pepperidge Farm products, Boxtops4Education, Coke Rewards codes and Capri Sun Packets. Also, you can register SuperG and Giant bonus cards and Target credit cards. Your trash is Brandywood's cash! Bring your collected items to the annual meeting this year or drop them off to Christina Asuncion at 2635 Pennington Drive prior to October 27<sup>th</sup>. Email the Rebates Committee at [ptabrandywood@gmail.com](mailto:ptabrandywood@gmail.com) to find out about all of the exciting options they have this year. Your help will make a difference!

### **Brandywood Elementary School:**

The president and vice president of the civic association recently attended a meeting held by the Brandywine School district regarding the fate of the Brandywood Elementary site once the new school opens in 2012. The BSD will demolish the old school, but the fate of the land is still unknown. We were told BSD will not fund any endeavor, the county will not take over the land as a park, and the state could reclaim the land if it is deemed "surplus". The board would ideally like the space preserved as open space or leased to a youth sports program. Please be assured that we will remain involved in this process.

### **Important Phone Numbers:**

New Castle County Complaints/Information: 395-5555

New Castle County Police, Non-Emergencies: 573-2800