

SPRINGFIELDS COMMUNITY NEWS



SPRING

2017

CONSTRUCTION

As you have probably noticed, there is construction taking place at the park. This work was approved by the Board several years ago, but just started several weeks ago. The sewer line from Route 1 to Springfields Blvd. is being replaced due to damage and/or collapse. *(There is no cost to SMC for this work.)* It is hoped that they will be finished by May.

SPRINGFIELDS BLVD. CLEAN UP Saturday, April 22 – 9:00 a.m.

Please join your neighbors the morning of April 22 to clean up Springfields Blvd. Trash along this road is a frequent topic at community and Board meetings. It is up to us to keep it clean—the state and/or county is not responsible for doing this. Volunteers should meet at the footbridge at 9:00 a.m. The more people that help, the faster the work will go. Please let Corliss Hawk know if you plan to attend (corlisshawk@comcast.net or 302-832-6692) and bring a pair of work gloves if you have them. We hope to see you there! (Rain date is April 23.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ❖ **April 22** – Springfields Blvd. Clean Up (rain date April 23) – 9:00 a.m. – Meet at the footbridge across from the park.
- ❖ **May 1** – Deadline to pay 2017 maintenance corporation fees. Bills have already been sent out by New Castle County.
- ❖ **May 20** – Community Yard Sale (rain date May 21) – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- ❖ **Sept. 2017** – Springfields Maintenance Corporation Community Meeting & Board Election (watch for posted signs!)

MARCHING IN LIKE A LION

After what has been a mild winter, March certainly came in like a lion. As a result of the storms, there has been a fair amount of tree damage at the park and to some individual homeowners' property. Your SMC Board has authorized the removal of damaged trees and planting new trees at the park. This work should be completed soon and is covered by the assessment.

Those who live along Springfields Blvd.: Please remember that your property line extends to the center of the ditch along that road. You are responsible for removing damaged trees/limbs (including trees/limbs growing on your property but falling beyond that), mowing, etc. to the center of the ditch. Thank you for your cooperation.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, May 20 – 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Last year, 26 households participated in the Springfields community yard sale. We are hoping for even more participation this year. Mark your calendar, start your spring cleaning, and decide which items to sell on May 20 (rain date is May 21). A few tips:

- ✓ Don't wait until the morning of the sale to collect items you want to sell.
 - ✓ Attach a balloon to your mailbox to let shoppers know that you are participating.
 - ✓ Make sure you have small bills and coins on hand to make change. A calculator can be helpful too.
 - ✓ Grocery bags are great for packaging items sold. *(Tie the handles together so additional items are not added to the bag after purchase.)*
 - ✓ Price your items but be willing to negotiate.
- Volunteers will post signs on Route 13, Route 40, and Route 7 prior to the day of the sale.



SPRING REMINDERS

- ☼ **Trees and bushes** should be trimmed so they do not interfere with the use of sidewalks.
- ☼ **Noise** becomes an issue as we open our windows and spend more time outdoors. Please be considerate neighbors and keep the level of noise from music, parties, dogs, vehicles, etc. to a minimum.
- ☼ **Permits** are needed for improvements such as decks, swimming pools and finishing basements but not for fences, sidewalk/driveway repairs, and re-roofing (without 25% or more replacement of sheathing). For the full list of NCC permit requirements, please visit New Castle County's land use website at www.nccdelu.org.
- ☼ **Rainwater only!** Everything that goes down the storm drains or in the ditch along Springfields Blvd. ends up in our two stormwater management areas and, ultimately, in groundwater reserves. It is illegal to dispose of chlorinated pool water, chemicals, grass clippings and leaves into stormwater management areas. Please call or text (302) STOPPIT to report those polluting our watershed. Additional tips: Use fertilizers on your lawn sparingly; use a mulching lawnmower on grass and leaves instead of bagging them; clean up pet waste; wash vehicles on a permeable surface (i.e., grass or gravel) so the water can be filtered naturally. Remember that repairs to these areas can be covered by maintenance fees *only to a certain point*. Excessive damage can result in higher maintenance fees or an assessment for all of us.
- ☼ **Springfields Park** is carry-in/carry-out. Please carry out your trash to discard at home.
- ☼ **SMC assessments are due May 1 this year**, since April 30 is a Sunday. New Castle County sends the bills and collects payment for the annual SMC assessment. It remains \$120 this year, as it has for many years. Last year, forty-three homeowners did not pay their assessment and had to be contacted by a lawyer. The lawyer's fees for sending letters and to put liens on the homes of those who still refuse to pay get added to the assessment amount they owe. Please remember to pay your assessment by May 1.

Thank you!

YES, WE ARE ASKING AGAIN!



Can you help with just **one project per year** to improve our community? Everyone is busy but we are just asking for a few hours of your time **once a year**:

- picking up trash along Springfields Blvd.,
- distributing information,
- helping elderly or disabled neighbors by trimming trees or mowing lawn,
- planning community activities and events, and/or
- sharing your talent or expertise.

Let us know what you're willing to do and we can notify you when needed. If interested, contact Corliss Hawk at corlisshawk@comcast.net or (302) 832-6692. Please include your name and contact information. Many hands make lighter work for all!

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SMC is a non-profit corporation in the state of Delaware. All Board members **volunteer** their time to help improve our community:

- President – Milt Draper
MDraper03@yahoo.com – (302) 832-7852
- Vice President – Corliss Hawk
corlisshawk@comcast.net – (302) 832-6692
- Treasurer – Matt Jacobs
mookiept379@aol.com – (302) 753-3265
- Secretary – Terri Waller
terriwde@comcast.net – (302) 542-7383
- Members-at-Large –
 - Maria Foust – Maria.foust@yahoo.com – (302) 981-6091
 - Deidra Johnson – Sisdee5@hotmail.com – (302) 834-7606
 - Kenneth Winfield – kwcw45@hotmail.com – (302) 832-9874

SMC's official address is: PO Box 10021
Wilmington, DE 19850

SMC BOARD ELECTION

The election of Board members will take place at the community meeting in September. If you are interested in serving on the Board but want more information, please contact one of the Board members listed above.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

- Senator David McBride – (302) 577-8744 – David.McBride@state.de.us
- Representative Melanie George Smith – (302) 577-8476 – Melanie.g.smith@state.de.us
- State of Delaware – <http://delaware.gov/>
- Delaware State Parks – <http://destateparks.com>
- New Castle County Homeowner Info. – <http://www.nccde.org/9/How-do-I>
- New Castle County Crime Information – <http://nccde.org/317/Crime-Information>
- Colonial School District – <http://www.colonial.schooldistrict.org>