



Green Hill Civic Association

Green Hill Civic Association Spring 2023 Newsletter

Greetings from Green Hill! Many thanks to the several contributors to this year's Spring Newsletter! As you read the newsletter you'll see their bylines.

There is a lot in store for this summer. Here are a few highlights (more detail below):

- Our summer season Kickoff Dinner will be held **June 24th at Bravo by the Sea.**
- Social events for adults and children, new ground racks for watercraft, pickleball lessons, bocce and horseshoe tournaments and badminton at the recreation area.
- **NEW:** you now can order clothing and accessory items from LLBean, with our Green Hill Beach logo embroidered on the item.

As the world evolves, we are evolving too. This will be the last Spring Newsletter that will be printed and mailed to you. Beginning next year we will publish the newsletter only on our website: <https://greenhillcivic.com>, and you can find this one there soon if you prefer to read online.

New Neighbors (Scott Graf)

Many people have moved into our community over the past year. Welcome to Green Hill:

Edward and Amanda Addvensky	Surfside Avenue
Matthew DeAngelis	Rosebriar Avenue
David and Kerry Dineno	Carpenter Drive
Andreas and Dana Hausmann	Bayberry Avenue

Let us know anyone we missed so we can offer a Green Hill welcome. Contact our Welcome Chairperson, Carolyn Craig (401-783-7822) - give Carolyn their names, and she will invite them to community events.

Green Hill Passings (Scott Graf)

The Green Hill community lost several venerable members over the past year, including:

Ron Dubois
Michael Gaffney
Bob Kulacz

Their contributions to Green Hill will long be remembered, and we extend condolences to their families. If we missed anyone, please let us know.

Mark Your Calendars (Mal O'Connor)

Sat., May 27th - Beach Cleanup 9:30 a.m.: Pete Jackson invites all who can make it to bring a rake or other tools, a pair of work gloves, and a large garbage bag. We'll make quick work of clearing rubbish and flotsam from our beaches, the kayak launch and recreation areas.

Sat., May 27th - Boat Stickers 10am-12pm: Bill and Kathy Conlin will be at the kayak launch area to provide all who store kayaks, canoes, paddleboards and other craft with 2023 stickers. All craft must have stickers if stored at the kayak launch area. (If you do not have a key to the shed where paddles, vests, and other recreation equipment is stored, make sure to let Bill and Kathy know when you pick up your sticker.)

Sat. June 10th - GHCA Members Meeting 10 a.m.: Via Zoom. The agenda and Zoom link will be sent a week prior to the meeting. Join us to find out more about Green Hill Vision 2030 and this season's social events, and how to get clothes and bags with the Green Hill Beach logo.

Sat., June 24th - Season Kickoff Dinner 5-8:30pm: At Bravo by the Sea (next to Theatre by the Sea in Matunuck) for drinks and dinner in a beautiful setting close to Green Hill. Please fill out the enclosed Reservation Form and return it asap with your entrée selection and check.

Tues., July 4th - Parade 11:00 a.m.: The greatest little parade in South County kicks off at the Carpenter Drive-Hilltop Avenue flagpole. This year we will be honoring "The Colonel," Ron Dubois, who organized and led the parade for decades before his passing last year.

Sat., August 26th - End of Season Family Picnic 3:30 p.m.: It's the perfect way to end the summer season at Green Hill, and a way to show off your culinary prowess!

Sat., August 26th - GHCA Annual Members Meeting 10 a.m.: Most likely via Zoom. The agenda and Zoom link will be sent a week prior to the meeting. Please join us to select Officers and Board Members who will serve the association for the next two years.

GHCA Vision 2030 (AJ Emanuel)

The Vision team worked hard through the winter and spring to complete an analysis of responses to the member survey circulated in July/August of 2022. We sent the survey to over 250 households, and received a 33% response rate. (Thank you to all who responded. Most surveyors are pleased with a 5-10% response rate.) Respondents offered many ideas and suggestions. In order of priority, GHCA members want the association to focus on:

- 1) The Beach and Beach Access
- 2) Preserving what we have while making improvements
- 3) Safety
- 4) Recreation (including tennis, pickleball, the kayak launch, bocce and other uses for the recreation area
- 5) Improving water quality in Green Hill Pond

We are in the process of forming teams to address these topics. The first phase will include, but is not limited to, generating ideas and options, and testing the feasibility of each. Please come to the June 10th Members Meeting to learn more specifics about our approach, the timeline for this work and ways to participate. We look forward to updating you then!

The Beach (Mal O'Connor)

Our beach took a beating from a couple of major storms late last year. The storm two days before Christmas did the most damage, causing major erosion to both beaches. During the storm, the two benches (chained together and bolted to a large boulder!) were swept into the ocean and torn apart by the storm. Fortunately, most of the pieces of the benches floated back onto the rocks. Thanks to Annie Spencer, Kim Beals and Tim Evin for rescuing the pieces – and special thanks to Dylan Gamache for reassembling the benches for all of us to enjoy.

Fortunately, much of the sand lost to that storm has returned to the beach fronting the Hill Association parking lot. The Association Beach has had no such luck. It remains a field of cobble and boulders uncovered by the tides. You can still swim occasionally at low tide if you can make your way to the waterline. Please remember: We will not be hiring a lifeguard, so ***swimming is at your own risk.***

A Note to Dog Walkers: Dogs are allowed on the beach on leashes during the summer season. When walking your dog around Green Hill, ***Pick-Up after Your Dog.*** Poop Bags are provided at the entrance to the beach right of way, the parking lot, and at the recreation area. Be a responsible pet owner and neighbor. *USE poop bags, take them with you and dispose of them when you get home.*

Racquet Sports (Kathy and Bill Conlin)

The tennis/pickleball courts are refinished, painted and ready for the season. Make sure to read the rules and regulations posted in the message center at the courts. We are creating a Racquet Club tab on the GHCA website. There you will find the rules and regs, a listing of Racquet Club members with their contact info, and their self-rated skill level. If you do not want to include your contact information, please indicate this on the Racquet Club renewal form you will receive via email. But consider: Other members may want to reach you to set up play dates. On weekends, remember to use the white board to sign up for a court if they are occupied.

Pickleball

This summer we plan to replace the Saturday morning open play with more formalized group instruction by Bob Burian, for groups of up to eight people. The schedule will include three 2-hour lessons over 8 or 9 days (e.g. Saturday, Wednesday, Saturday). Specific times and days will be set by those involved and Bob's availability. The first session will begin in May or June. Please contact Kathy Conlin if you have an interest. This will be open to all GHCA members and will cost \$60.00 for three 2-hour sessions. Stay tuned for an email message from Kathy.

Tennis

Membership was robust last year and, hopefully, will be so again this year. Membership dues will remain at \$150 for GHCA members. Renewal forms will be emailed again this year with the Tennis Committee's return address included. If you do not receive your membership by 5/5/2023, contact Stephanie Marchand or Chris Fontaine (email addresses below). Please mail dues directly to the Tennis Committee address. DO NOT include payment with your GHCA

membership dues. If you would like to join the Racquet Club, or have any questions, please email s-marchand@cox.net or christopherfontaine@gmail.com.

Green Hill Yacht Club (Kathy and Bill Conlin)

The communal kayaks saw a lot of use last season and will be available again this summer. Please make sure to lock the chain when you take the kayak out and lock the kayak up when you return. We don't want to lose any kayaks or locks.

All watercraft must have a GHCA sticker to access the launch area. Stickers will be distributed again this year on Saturday, May 27th, from 10am-12noon - weather permitting. (The rain date is Sunday, May 28th.) If you are unable to attend, please send a friend to pick up your stickers or request that they be mailed to you so that distribution doesn't linger throughout the summer. Demand for kayak slots is high, and slots will be limited to one per household this season. It is expected a slot will be available to all households who request one.

We built some "ground racks" last summer for all watercraft not in slots. You must get a sticker and place any canoes or additional kayaks on those racks. This placement will make it easier for everyone to launch their watercraft.

Storms that occur in the off season make it necessary for us to clean up the launch area before the beginning of each season. Therefore we ask each kayak owner to remove all watercraft in the Fall. Last year so many people ignored our multiple requests to remove their watercraft that we had to contact each person individually. **PLEASE** be courteous and responsible and remove your craft no later than Thanksgiving weekend.

Green Hill Beach Clothing (Dave Chellgren)

By now you have seen our new logo. Working with LL Bean, you can now order a variety of LLBean clothing and accessory items, e.g., tote bags, decorated with the Green Hill Beach logo. To view available items, go to: <https://www.llbeanbusiness.com/?nav=F2tE-518767>

Here's how to order:

- Call this number and ask for Brandon: 800-832-1889. Extension: 52681
- Mention the Green Hill Civic Association. Brandon manages our account, but others in the department may be able to help you as well.
- Provide the item number, and he will walk you through the steps to fulfill your order
- Most items will cost an additional \$7 to cover the cost of the logo embroidery.

2023 GHCA Social Events (Mary Ann Emanuel)

The Social Committee, led by Mary Ann Emanuel, has been working through the winter to prepare a terrific schedule of social events throughout the upcoming summer season. **Please mark your calendars NOW for these events.**

"Bocce and Banter is back in 2023!" (Thanks to Laurel Lefebvre)

If you've ever wanted to learn how to play bocce, think playing bocce is a great way to meet your neighbors, or just want to sharpen your skills in preparation for the highly anticipated annual bocce tournament in July, Bocce and Banter is for you!

Starting Sunday, May 28th, members of the Green Hill Civic Association will be on hand every other Sunday at 4 pm at the bocce court in the recreation area to help you learn the game or improve your game, and make sure the equipment is available. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. Bring a beverage, a chair and perhaps some nibbles to share.

Bocce and Banter will occur (weather permitting) on May 28th, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20, and September 3rd from 4 pm to 6 pm..

Join your neighbors for a relaxing Sunday afternoon of bocce!

Contact Laurel Lefebvre at laurel.lefebvre50@gmail.com with questions or if you'd like to be added to a reminder email distribution list.

Sidewalk Chalk Day (Thanks to Linda O'Connor and Dawn McCabe)

This event for children of all ages will be held on **Monday, July 3rd** at 10am at the corner of Land and Sea and Carpenter Drive. Rain date is Wednesday, July 5th. Please bring your children or grandchildren to join the fun. The winning artist will be awarded a 2023 Sidewalk Chalk Day prize. See you there!

4th of July Parade (In Memory of Ron Dubois)

The parade will kick off on **Monday, July 4th at 11am**. To join the parade, meet your neighbors at the Carpenter Drive – Hilltop flagpole no later than 11am. Decorate a float; decorate your dog, decorate your bikes; bring all the kids; dress-up befitting the Fourth. Get the Classic Car out of storage and join in the celebration! We will pay tribute to Ron, "The Colonel," Dubois who was the founding father of this wonderful event. See you at the parade again this year!

Bocce Tournament (Thanks to Laura and Jerry Bellizzi)

Back by popular demand, the annual Bocce Tournament will be held on **Saturday, 7/15** (rain date Sunday, 7/16). As in the past, we will email additional information closer to the tournament dates for you and your partner to sign up for this fun event. (Newcomers – check out Bocce and Banter (above) to learn how to play and hone your skills.)

Porchfest-Open Mike Session (Thanks to Bonnie and Mal O'Connor)

On **Saturday, July 22nd**, we will host the fourth annual Porchfest in the O'Connor's backyard at 17 Border Avenue. Rain date is Sunday, July 23rd. Bring your musical instruments and your voices (no matter what level of skill) - and join Mal and Bonnie O'Connor and their friends, Rik and Wendi Bourne, for an "open mike" evening of live music. This is Your Stage! Bring chairs, drinks and appetizers for a fun couple of hours of music and maybe even a little dancing! If you would like to come up to the mike and play, sing or dance, contact Mal at moconnor@cfar.com to sign up. We would love to include you!

Horseshoe Tournament (New for 2023!) (Thanks to Harry Morse)

Our very first Horseshoe Tournament will be held on **Saturday August 12th** with a rain date of Sunday, August 13th. We will send out additional information closer to the tournament dates

for you and your partner to sign up. (New to horseshoes? Harry will provide instructions on how to play the game a couple of weeks before the tournament.)

FYI: There is a regulation-sized horseshoe pit near the bocce court. Horseshoes are stored in the locked shed. Please use them any time. Return them to the shed - and lock it - after use.

End of Season Picnic (Thanks to Maureen Koehl, Mary Ann Emanuel, Linda Shaknaitis and Louise Jackson)

We will host the annual End of Season Picnic at the GHCA recreation area again this year. It will be held on Saturday afternoon, **August 26th**, with a rain date of Sunday, August 27th. It's a great way to celebrate the end of the summer season, sharing your favorite recipes with Green Hill friends and neighbors. More information to follow as we get closer to the date.

Pop Up Events – new for 2023 – More surprises in store for you this summer!!!

Your Social Committee wants to keep things exciting this year so please look for new "Pop Up" events that we will host throughout the summer. We will let you know about these events through email, on the website, and via posters and the message kiosks.

Community Liaison Corner (Dan Tanona)

Friends of Green Hill Pond

Last year's newsletter summarized the origin and focus of the Friends of Green Hill Pond and how the focus for the reduction of pond bacterial contamination shifted from flushing our pond with water from the ocean via Ninigret Pond to the reduction of the bacterial loading getting into the pond in the first place. One example toward that end, is the work that the FGHP had undertaken that forced the DEM to investigate a high source of bacterial loading from a catch basin on Route 1 with the goal of shutting down that source. In addition, FGHP continues to work with the town as well as URI in identifying all of the potential source flows into Green Hill Pond with the intention of attenuating the bacterial concentration before it enters the pond. FGHP has just launched a new website where they've assembled a great deal of information concerning both the pond and the organization. Please visit the site to learn more about the great work FOGHP is doing: www.foghp.org.

Beach Access

Unlike last year, there is movement in the RI State Senate on this extremely important issue. Last year the State House of Representatives unanimously passed Bill 8055 proposing that all people have a right to walk on the beach up to 10 feet above the most recent "wrack line," i.e., where you often see seaweed marking the height of the last high tide. A similar bill has been introduced in the State Senate, and with some good luck we'll get a solid compromise between the House and the Senate in order for the bill to reach the governor's desk.

To learn more and get involved in preserving beach rights, here are links to two articles:

From the Boston Globe:

https://www.independentri.com/news/article_7b5cb734-d97d-11ed-a093-972fb8448585.html A

From the Independent:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/02/17/metro/shore-access-proposal-ri-senate-goes-further-than-bill-house-passed-last-year/>

Subscribe to Green Hill Rocks

Ann Manion started the website Green Hill Rocks in 2015 to illuminate the area's unique qualities, including its natural habitat, arts, culture and special people. Sign up for the bi-annual newsletter at <https://www.greenhillrocks.com>. A great website – definitely worth a look.

Summer will be here before we know it – See you soon!