



# SANDY BRAE NEWSLETTER

## **HOT TOPICS!**

### **SNOW PLOWING**

Arrangements have been made for plowing the streets by a private contractor. Plowing and salting entrances will begin at 4" of fallen snow. The company will again be placing snow stakes throughout the community. Please do not remove them, remove them for your personal property, take them to place in your garden or give them to the children as play swords. We are charged for missing stakes.

### **OPERATION PORCH LIGHT**

With the time change, it gets darker sooner. We encourage residents to turn on their porch lights for safety. If you have motion lights or backyard flood lights, please note they need to be turned downward and not outward towards your neighbor's house.

### **CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS**

As the weather turns cold, don't forget to check on your neighbors especially our elderly friends and neighbors. If you are planning to go away for an extended time this winter, be sure to inform your neighbors.

### **DOGS...DOGS...DOGS**

Once again, we are getting a lot of complaint calls about people not picking up after their animals, letting their dogs run off leash, barking at night and owners allowing dogs on extension leashes go more than halfway up-front yards. Be a good owner and a responsible neighbor; respect everyone's property and follow Delaware law regarding leashing your dog. MOST IMPORTANT....bring your animals in when it gets cold outside.

**ANNOUNCEMENT!** In 2020, SBHOA Board Meetings will be held the second Monday of every month at a new location, the MCC Church on Plantations Road, from 6-8pm, and the meetings are open to all residents of Sandy Brae in good standing. These meetings are posted in the events calendar on our website in the event of a cancellation or date change. Also, all Board meeting agendas, treasurer reports, and minutes are always posted on our HOA website, which is [sandybraehoa.com](http://sandybraehoa.com). And, if you haven't already done so, like our HOA page on Facebook.

**A special thanks to all our residents who decorated their homes for Thanksgiving and the holidays. Our community looked very festive this year.**



## New Year's Traditions from Around the World

Ring in the New Year with these international traditions

As the old year concludes and the New Year begins, people across the United States celebrate in accordance with common traditions. Couples will share a kiss at midnight, fireworks will light up the sky and revelers will belt out "Auld Lang Syne." However, these traditional activities are not necessarily practiced in all parts of the world. Indeed, each country has its own unique New Year's traditions. The following are just a few ways that residents of other countries ring in the New Year.

**Fireworks in Iceland** - Fireworks are generally considered a staple of New Year's celebrations, so their presence is not all that notable. However, New Year's fireworks are a big deal in many parts of Iceland, where setting off fireworks is banned during the rest of the year. For the week following New Year's Eve, citizens of Iceland are able to enjoy a sky full of fireworks displays. Additionally, Icelanders will light large bonfires to stay warm and signify the spirit of the New Year.



**Eating 12 grapes in Spain** - As the clock chimes 12 times as midnight arrives, people in Spain celebrate with a snack of 12 grapes. Tradition states that finishing the 12 grapes before midnight arrives secures a happy and fortuitous new year. Still, those who want to participate in this activity had best be prepared to finish those grapes on time. After all, those who aren't able to finish the grapes allegedly become victims of bad luck.

**Smashing old plates in Denmark** - If you happen to live in Denmark, you'll probably wake up to broken dishes outside your door on New Year's Day. After all, your friends and family likely left them there for you. Denmark's citizens smash their old plates as a way of ringing in the New Year. Smashing your kitchenware outside of someone's home is said to bring good luck to that resident.

**Carry an empty suitcase in Colombia** - If you plan on traveling during the New Year, you might want to consider this Colombian tradition. On New Year's Day, Colombians walk around with empty suitcases. Doing so is believed to bring good fortune during your travels. This activity is also practiced in other countries, such as Ecuador.

**Ring bells in Japan** - Throughout the country of Japan, Buddhist temples will ring a bell 108 times leading up to the New Year. This practice has origins with traditional Buddhist teachings. Each toll of the bell signifies one of the 108 earthly temptations. By the time the bell is rung for the 108th time, Japan's citizens are ready to start the year without the distraction of these temptations.

**Visiting cemeteries in Chile** - One of the best parts of celebrating the New Year is spending time with your family members. In the Talca region of Chile, that includes loved ones who have passed on. Families will gather at cemeteries where their loved ones are buried to celebrate the New Year there. This tradition is very similar to the Día de los Muertos holiday celebrated earlier in the year.

## PRO AND CONS OF AN OPEN FLOOR PLAN

Open floorplans are high on many homeowners wish lists. When you remove walls, however, you also get a sweeping view of the space – as well as a clear shot of the dirt dishes!

A casual, multifunctional space sounds like an enticing concept. With no walls separating the kitchen from the living and dining rooms, a space will look more expansive and inviting because it's not chopped up into smaller areas. But there are downsides as well. Before you start demolishing the walls, know the positives and the negatives of having an open concept floor plan.

### PROS

1. **The space will look bigger** – with no walls to stop the flow of square footage, it'll look like you've upgraded to a larger home. By opening up a space, you might light fill areas and visually much more room. The space will be more open for entertaining and have a better flow. People can pass thorough without interfering with anyone else in the space.
2. **It Save You Money** – Taking out a non-load-bearing wall or two is more affordable than building an addition. If your intention is to gain more space. With an open floor plan, you'll use formally little used space, like the dining room, since its more accessible now.
3. **An Open Concept Encourages Togetherness** – People feel more connected while in one large open space. There's room for the family to watch TV while the primary cook becomes part of the group even though he or she is preparing dinner in the kitchen.

### CONS

1. **You Can't Hide Your Dirty or Clutter** – Every backpack dumped on the floor, every cereal bowl used a t breakfast, will be in clear view. An open concept would naturally force everyone to tidy up on a regular basis to avoid living in a messy environment. Are you ready for that?
2. **Knocking Down A Load-Bearing Wall Doesn't Come Cheap** - you may need to consult with a structural engineer or architect. The cost of the removing of walls often dedicates where or if its feasible to pursue an open concept. Removing beams in the ceiling or in the attic space can be costly as well but its doable.
3. **No Walls, No Privacy** – The kids are whooping it up in the family room area while you're trying to read, someone's going to get cranky and it be the kids.
4. **Aromatic Food Smells Won't Be Contained In The Kitchen** – The Scent of the garlic chicken dish you prepared for dinner may still be permeating the entire first floor by the time you got to bed. What was enticing hours ago is now just smelly. 😬

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*A viable neighborhood is a community; and a viable community is made up of neighbors who cherish and protect what they have in common - Wendell Berry*

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## CALENDER

### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 13 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\*  
MCC Church on Plantations Road
- 20 Martin Luther King Day

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Lewes Polar Bear Plunge – Rehoboth Beach
- 10 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\*  
MCC Church on Plantations Road
- 12 Abe Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 President's Day

### MARCH

- 7/8 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Health & Fitness Expo – Cape Henlopen High
- 9 Sandy Brae Board Meeting @ 6PM\*  
MCC Church on Plantations Road
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

Check out, and sign up for newsletters and emails from <https://visitsoutherndelaware.com/de-events/month>

*\*Board meetings are open to all residents in good standing.*

*Mark your calendars 2020 SBHOA Annual Meeting is June 13, MCC Church on Plantation Road, 10am-noon. The Board hopes this change in venue will increase attendance.*

### EDITORS CORNER:

While going through some of my mother's things, which I do now and then, I found an old wrapped newspaper article that my mother had saved. My father and her picture were wrapped within the article, dated August 11, 1954. The article was called "Forever Together" by Ben Burroughs. The article was ripped, aged and torn, but I did manage to get through most of it, till the end where the paper was lost. I wanted to reprint it here, in homage to my parents, Valentine's Day, and to my beliefs that something always happens for a reason (which I will explain at the end of this). Here is the exert article from the NY American Journal Newspaper:

*"Forever Together" – Together we can face the world...without regret or fear... we'll conquer every pain or strife.. as long as we are near... we'll climb the highest precipice.... And detour stormy weather... for we can find a peaceful glen... as long as we're together... when two hearts beat in unison... the world is theirs to hold... life will be joyful all the way... and never blue or cold... yes, happiness is two times two... and tender are the years.. when you have someone in your heart... to wipe away the tears... no grief can dim the star of hope... that shines in true love's eyes... for lovers held a magic wand... to paint the sordid skies... so it is and always will be... till the very end of time... just....*

And that's where the article was torn and lost. I couldn't find the actual complete poem online, and maybe someday I will. But the ah-ha moment I had, that came rushing to me was when my mom passed away, and our Dad was discussing what to place on her tombstone, we told him to put anything he wanted. He came up with "forever together". When he told me, I corrected him, and

said "no Pop it should be Together Forever", and he said no, this is what I want "forever together". No one argued and so it was done.... 6 years later I find this article hidden away in a small purse my mother had when she was young, before they were married, wrapped in a black & white photo of my parents, looking so young and innocent, ready to race the world... and so in love... and now I understood.

Some of the greatest gifts you can find are these lost treasures. I don't know if we are raising a culture of sentimental humans, but I am sure glad that my parents raised me that way and my parents gave this gift this year. **Happy Valentine's Day to you all.**

## IMPORTANT AND USEFUL WEBSITES

### [Government of Delaware](https://www.usa.gov/state-government/delaware)

<https://www.usa.gov/state-government/delaware> Primary contact information along with key agencies and offices for the government of **Delaware**

### [Delaware.gov - Official Website of the State of Delaware](https://delaware.gov/)

[delaware.gov/](https://delaware.gov/)

The official website of the State of **Delaware**. Find information about state government, programs, and services.

### [Division of Corporations - Filing - Delaware](https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/Ecorp/EntitySearch/NameSearch.aspx)

[icis.corp.delaware.gov/Ecorp/EntitySearch/NameSearch.aspx](https://icis.corp.delaware.gov/Ecorp/EntitySearch/NameSearch.aspx)

To retrieve information on a **Delaware** entity, Key in the name of the entity you are searching.

### [Visit Delaware – Vacation in Delaware and explore beaches ...](https://www.visitdelaware.com/)

[www.visitdelaware.com/](https://www.visitdelaware.com/)

Plan your trip to **Delaware** and discover its endless things to do and see.

### [Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles](https://dmv.de.gov/)

[dmv.de.gov/](https://dmv.de.gov/)

**Delaware** DMV is implementing a voluntary medical indicator for Delawareans who wish to share important medical conditions with first responders and ...

### [Delaware - Division of Revenue - Department of Finance](https://revenue.delaware.gov/)

[revenue.delaware.gov/](https://revenue.delaware.gov/)

The **Delaware** Division of Revenue's mission is to collect 100% of the taxes and other revenues required by law to be remitted to the State of **Delaware** ...

### [Delaware Unclaimed Property – Official State Site](https://unclaimedproperty.delaware.gov/)

[unclaimedproperty.delaware.gov/](https://unclaimedproperty.delaware.gov/)

Welcome to **Delaware's** unclaimed property homepage. Claiming Property. Search for Unclaimed Property [chevron\\_right](#) Check Existing Claim Status ...

### [Forms - Division of Revenue - State of Delaware](https://revenue.delaware.gov/forms/)

[revenue.delaware.gov/forms/](https://revenue.delaware.gov/forms/)

Before downloading or requesting traditional paper tax forms, consider e-filing! It's fast, convenient, and accurate and easy.

### [Delaware Courts - State of Delaware](https://www.courts.delaware.gov/)

[www.courts.delaware.gov/](https://www.courts.delaware.gov/)

The **Delaware** Judiciary is composed of the Supreme Court, the Court of Chancery, the Superior Court, the Family Court, the Court of Common Pleas, the ...

### [Corporate Forms and Certificates - corp.delaware.gov](https://corp.delaware.gov/)

[corp.delaware.gov/corpforms/](https://corp.delaware.gov/)

**Delaware** Division of Corporations. Corporate Forms and Certificates. Listen. You may select your corporate forms by ENTITY TYPE, by DOCUMENT TYPE. or ...

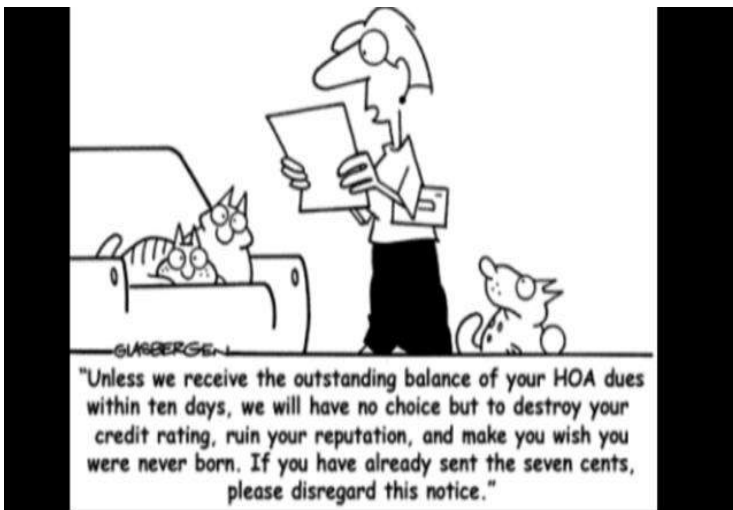
## RUST..... THE ENEMY!

The winter and fall seasons are great times to clean, fix or spruce up some outdoor items that may need attention. One thing I see a lot of is damaged or rusted walkway railings. If your wrought iron railings are damaged, you can hire a welder who can repair it. Residents can look online or find a recommended handyman who can help. DIY railing repairs can be difficult to accomplish with the appropriate tools. If you're thinking of replacing your railings the big box retailers will likely have local recommendations for you.

You should protect your property. The best way to maintain your railings, are to keep them rust-free and painted. Use a brittle brush to remove any rust. Then paint it with a rust resistant exterior paint, such as Rustoleum. Our local hardware or home improvement store can help you select the correct type of paint.

Small cracks can be repaired in concrete stairs but larger issues including damaged steel treads and any exposed rebar will likely require replacement. Your best option is to reach out to concrete vendors to learn all of your repair options. Using a vendor selection service such as Who would you recommend in Sussex County on Facebook, or Angie's List, HomeAdvisor, etc. will be good references to start.

If you have cracks in your stairs and see rust stains, that means that water is reaching the rebar (metals rods reinforcing the concrete) and it is rusting. The more water, the faster the rusting, the quicker the stains will fail (pieces of concrete breaking off). Making repairs to small cracks now will help extend the life of your stairs/steps. Remember to do your homework and have the proper tools to make your repairs.



### *On the lighter side....*

If you think you are a person of great influence, try telling somebody else's dog what to do.

Worry is interest paid on a trouble before its due.

A sweater is something a child puts on when a parent feels cold.

### LOUIE'S CORNER:

Organic Food – Do we know for sure if it is, or not? New York City, lower east side; year about 1935. My mother had a little garden. It was a wooden box on her fire escapoe. Today you would call it a window box. She grew parsley and basil. The soil was from the backyard. The feriiizlizer, well, a horse and wagon always passed down Madison Street to deliver sawdust to the local butchers. She would give me a little shover, it was used for the house and coal stove; with this shovel in my hand, I would follow the horse and wagon until it stopped. Then sometimes the horse would do its business. With one hand on my nose, and one eye shut, I would pick up one dropping and deliver it to the wooden box. Now that's what I called farming!

## What Should I Plant This Spring?

Many people anticipate the annual deluge of flowers and plants that occur in spring and summer. It's not too early to start planning what type of flora you want to have in your garden this growing season and to set a date for planting the seeds. For most growing zones in the U.S., you'll want to plant the seeds after the first frost. Here are the seven flowers, vegetables and herbs we recommend planting this spring.

### Flowers

Morning glories make a vibrant addition to any garden. Soak the seeds in water for a day or two until the sprout head emerges, per Reader's Digest. Next, place each sprout six inches apart in the ground and cover with about one-fourth inch of soil. Place the seeds next to a trellis or fence and watch the vines weave over the surface. Flowers might not appear until mid-summer.

Zinnias are another low-maintenance flower that thrives in many growing zones. They do best in full sun regions of the garden. Sow the seeds one-fourth inch deep and 2-24 inches apart depending on the zinnia variety, per Farmers' Almanac.



Marigolds are one of the simplest flowers to grow from seeds, per Reader's Digest. The cheery yellow and orange blooms will brighten up your garden, but they also repel insects, so consider placing them around deck and patio areas. Because they do best in well-drained soil, loosen the soil with a shovel and/or rake and remove rocks before planting the seeds. Sow the seeds 1 inch apart and approximately 1 inch deep.

### Vegetables

If you appreciate fresh salads, why not consider growing lettuce? Per The Spruce contributor Marie Iannotti, the cool, damp weather of spring is the perfect environment for cultivating this plant. It's best to plant lettuce from seedlings rather than seeds, as they are a bit sensitive to extreme temperatures. If you do choose to seed the plants yourself, do so indoors and wait until the first frost to transplant them to your garden. Make sure to barely cover the seeds with soil, advises Iannotti, since lettuce needs light to germinate.

For an easy-to-grow vegetable, it's hard to beat rhubarb. If you're a fan of root vegetables or strawberry rhubarb pie, it can be rewarding to grow it fresh in your garden. Plant one-year-old rhubarb crowns in the ground after the first frost. Place the plants about 4 feet apart and 1-2 inches below the soil. Cover with compost and any other organic matter to enhance the rhubarb's growth.

### Herbs

Dill is a favorite herb to add to soups as well as to pickling recipes. Per Farmers' Almanac, this plant also attracts wasps and other predatory insects to ward off garden pests. Sow the seeds 18 inches apart and one-fourth inch deep into the soil and gently rake the seeds. Make sure to shelter the plants from strong winds since they're a bit delicate before becoming fully established.

Quintessential to Italian dishes, basil is a key ingredient for pesto and other tasty dishes. Sweet basil is the most commonly used variety, though you can also opt for lemon basil or Thai basil (the latter has a licorice flavor). Per Farmers' Almanac, plant basil seeds inside about six weeks before the last frost in your growing zone. Make sure the soil is at least 50 degrees Fahrenheit before transplanting the seedlings outside since basil needs heat to grow. Sow the seedlings one-fourth inch deep and 10-12 inches apart.

Consider planting one or more of these easy-to-grow varieties this spring to enjoy colorful blooms and incorporate tasty flavors into your meals.

The healthy living look – Many designers have observed a shift more ecofriendly and green elements indoors. Having an abundance of real plants can help achieve this. Bringing the outdoors into your home is not only an esthetic choice, but real plants also provide the benefit of filtering harmful chemicals out of your home. We're also seeing tons of floral patterns inspired by nature. More homeowners are choosing natural over manmade materials, like hardwood floors.

There have been a few or more complaints recently about dogs barking at night. Please be cognizant and considerate of your neighbors. Here is a website you might visit to find out why your fur-baby is up at night speaking loudly:

<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/how-get-your-dog-stop-barking?>



The Board is always looking for new members to join. We welcome new faces and new ideas. Be an intrigue part of your community and join the Sandy Brae HOA today. If you wish to contribute an article or nominate someone to be highlighted in our newsletter, please contact us a noted below. Thank you.

Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our website: [www.SandyBraeHOA.com](http://www.SandyBraeHOA.com)



Email: [SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com](mailto:SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com)

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