CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY

All children of Grenada Village are invited to our Children’s Christmas Party.
Date: Sunday 15 December 2013, Time: 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Venue: Community Hall, 4 Mandeville Crescent

Santa, food, games, prizes, lolly scramble, raffles. Our children’s entertainer this year is ‘Tricky the Clown’ and he will be performing for 40 minutes from 2.20 pm.

While the party is free, parents are reminded to arrange a “named” present for each of their children attending. This is to be handed to a committee member on the day for placing in Santa’s sack. We suggest that it should be no greater than $10 in value.

The party will be held wet or fine. The Community Association pays or the party (other than your child’s present), and we would appreciate parents supporting our Christmas raffle to enable us to recover some of the costs involved.

Prizes for the raffle, which has several draws for the one ticket, are mainly from items that have been kindly donated by various Johnsonville retailers or from others who support our community.

This party is a truly memorable occasion for Grenada Village with more than 60 children attending.

Please bring your family along and enjoy this exciting and very special afternoon.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Date: Monday 16 December 2013
Time: 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Venue: Community Hall, 4 Mandeville Crescent

The Salvation Army band led by Ross McMillan will again be our guests at the carol singing. The evening is multi-denominational and is a great family occasion. More than 70 adults and children attend each year. Please come along and enjoy the spirit of Christmas. The Association provides a light supper and Christmas cake afterwards.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting of the Grenada Village Community Association Inc. is now to be held early next year.
A separate notice will be delivered to every household in January.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
The financial year of the Association is 1 October to 30 September each year. A copy of our 2013/2014 membership form is included with this newsletter.
To maintain representing your interests in Grenada Village, it would be appreciated if each household contributed the $10 per family annual subscription to help finance the Association’s activities. We would ask all residents to please assist us in our endeavours, which we do on your behalf. Becoming a financial member of our Association does not mean you are being asked to become a committee member or to commit yourself any further.
At present, our return from subscriptions only covers part of our annual expenditure.
We fund producing this newsletter and the children’s Christmas party for up to 80 children. We have general administration running costs such as stationery, postage, photocopying, submissions etc. There is nearly always a cost incurred with most of what we do.
The income we receive from community hall hire contributes a little after we have paid the annual lease to the council, insurance, electricity, gas heating, hall provisions and specific maintenance.
A renewed 2013/2014 membership card will be forwarded to you in due course.

EMERGENCY WATER TANK
A 25,000 litre emergency water tank has been installed in Grenada Village beside the community hall in Mandeville Crescent. The hall is a designated civil defence location.
The Wellington Regional Emergency Management Office (WREMO) and the Wellington City Council have recently begun a four year programme of installing 50 of these water tanks at strategic locations around the city. The sites are potential welfare and civil defence centres like schools and community centres and we were included in the first batch.
The tanks are to provide support to the network reservoirs in the event of a major emergency. Should the city’s water supply be disrupted, these 50 tanks could provide 1,250,000 litres of the overall requirement needed, with the community being able to directly collect drinking water from them until the waterpipe network is repaired. Currently only 50 percent of Wellington’s water is stored in earthquake resistant reservoirs and while the rest are being gradually upgraded and strengthened, it is expected it may take another 10 to 20 years before 90 percent of the water storage is secure.
The tanks are plumbed into the mains so that they are full at all times with potable water. Also, they are sited to enable tanker access for refilling if normal supply is not possible after an emergency.
The tanks are fully maintained by the City Council.
Access to the water is by an attachable distribution manifold which will be kept in the hall along with instructions for its use. All emergency services are trained in accessing the tanks as well.

GRENADA DRIVE
Since Grenada Drive was linked with the extension of Mark Avenue in 2008, we have on many occasions requested the City Council to consider constructing a footpath and street lights down the western side.
This road is well used by pedestrians who currently have to walk on the roadway as the kerb verge off the kerbstone is constantly overgrown. Even though Council staff do mow and clear it (very irregularly), it quickly becomes unusable again.
The following was received from the Council in mid September. A similar statement was given to the new Leaps and Bounds Playcentre following their request earlier in the year.
Footpath - The construction of a footpath down Grenada Drive to the motorway interchange and from the interchange down to Middleton Road, is not programmed in the Council’s Long Term Plan currently. The LTP of 2012 has ceased all funding for new footpaths until 2015/2016. It is likely we could development to construct a footpath down Grenada Drive in the fullness of time but from the interchange to Middleton Road in Gleniside is unlikely because there is little scope for development. Council owns and maintains around 1000 kms of footpaths. There is a pending schedule of proposed new footpaths and these are prioritised on the basis of a range of criteria including safety record. This programme will be reactivated in 2015/2016 provided that Council decides to budget for such new works. We will ensure that this location is recorded in our pending schedule for due prioritisation.
Street Lighting – There currently is no plan to light Grenada Drive in either the 2013/2014 or 2014/2015 financial years. The lighting team will explore asking Council for the appropriate funding however given that the Annual Plan and Long Term Plan have already been approved the chances of this occurring are small.
Over the past few years there has been a number of motor vehicle accidents and ‘near misses’ at the lower end of Grenada Drive where it meets the motorway interchange. Some of these accidents have involved significant injuries to the motorists or passengers and major damage to the vehicles.
A resident, who has been involved in two separate crashes since June 2012, recently wrote to the NZ Transport Agency and Wellington City Council making the point that this junction consisting of various intersections and various road rules is not a safe area to be in. Both accidents were not of their fault and the offending motorists were prosecuted.

HALL HIRE
The Community Hall is available for hire for various social activities. Charges levied by the Association are $8.00 per hour for financial members and $15.00 per hour to non financial members.
No adult private parties are allowed due to the close proximity of houses, unless agreed under specific arrangements.

For more information contact Dawn Patterson
Telephone 478 4221

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013/2014
Bruce Patterson (Chairman) 478 4221
Dawn Patterson 478 4221
William Nobelen 478 1091
Barbara Davy 478 7359
Paul Emley 478 7044
Steven Archer 478 6352
Sonia Bellingham 477 1790

COMMITTEE COMMENT
It has regrettably been some time since our last newsletter for which we apologise.
As the next issue of “Village News” will not be published until March, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.
In this junction, vehicles are coming around corners, coming up hills, coming down hills, stopping, giving way, going on the motorway north and southbound and coming off the motorway north and southbound. In general there is a lot of activity occurring in this small space with at times, significant speed, all causing some confusion.

This section of road needs to be improved and in October 2013, the following was received by the resident from the Senior Safety Engineer Wellington at NZ Transport Agency.

I have visited the site and have the following comments:

Due to the downhill grade, the approach on Grenada Drive towards the motorway interchange means vehicles are travelling at some speed as they negotiate the right hand curve just before the on/off ramps. This is an issue and I will be taking this up with Wellington City Council engineers as between the two of us we need to look at some measures that will enable vehicles to slow down before the ramps and therefore giving time for vehicles to turn on and off the ramps. This will also ensure that any crashes that do occur will only be of a lower severity (our safe system philosophy states that people will still make mistakes when driving, we just have to try and reduce the harm to them).

Three appears to be sufficient signage on the southbound off ramp to denote that there is a “Stop” ahead. Any more signage and there will be too much and this is not a good thing as drivers will become too distracted if there are too many signs. We could look at adding white backing boards to the Stop signs and this may make them more conspicuous. The key thing here is the lack of sight distance for vehicles looking to the left (Grenada Drive) due to the curvature of the approach road and the bank. That is why the intersection is Stop controlled. The enforcement of the Stop is undertaken by the Police. I will contact them and let them know of your concerns and I hope they would then show some presence here.

The carriageway markings are definitely not clear. I have been informed that this area is due for an audit on the markings in the next few weeks. If the audit shows that the markings are okay, then I will ensure that they are repainted anyway. This will enhance the safety considerably. Please note that we maintain the ramps only, so the markings over the bridge on Grenada Drive/Westchester Drive are maintained by Wellington City Council. I will ensure they are aware of your concerns and hope that they can remark the markings at this location.

I also observed vehicles turning right onto the southbound on-ramp were attempting to guess what the approaching vehicle intentions were in regard to either turning left onto the on-ramp or continuing straight on. A number of vehicles turned left without signalling and I expect that this was very annoying to some right turning vehicles that were waiting in the right turn lane. I am not sure what we can do about this, apart from maybe putting up a sign encouraging drivers to signal their intentions early.

In reviewing the crashes at this particular location (southbound on/off ramp) for the past 5 1/2 years, two crashes involved vehicles failing to give way when turning right onto the on-ramp and hitting the through vehicle (both recorded as non-injury crashes), and two crashes involved vehicles failing to stop when turning from the off-ramp and hitting through vehicles travelling west (both recorded as non-injury crashes). The crash history suggests that there is not a safety issue at this location, and these numbers are way below what is usual for a motorway on/off ramp. The fact that all of these crashes were non-injury is also a factor, as our current safety strategy is to reduce fatal and serious casualties, and this is where the majority of our minor safety funding is targeted.

We will continue to monitor the location.

According to the statistics that were provided, there has been seven crashes at this site since late 2009. We are not confident as to the accuracy of these figures as we are aware of accidents that have been classified by the Police as motorway accidents although they have not actually occurred on the motorway, but on the interchange or on/off ramps. We are also aware of several ‘near misses’ that have not been reported.

BUS SERVICE

Back in January 2012, the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) announced they were undertaking a review of all bus services in Wellington City. This review would take more than two years to complete and would cover all routes and timetables from Tawa south (excluding Grenada North which had recently been done).

The main purpose of the review was to ease congestion in the inner city. The ‘golden-mile’ from Courtenay Place to Wellington Railway Station currently experiences as many as 140 buses an hour at peak times resulting in significant jams and delays. By reducing some of the services and consolidating some of the routes, buses could be used more effectively.

The GWRC have recognised that northern Wellington is one of the areas that do have a substantially different and quite unique set of issues to the rest of Wellington. They have conceded that the current network in this area is extremely complex and is difficult to overcome.

At this point in time, GWRC have decided that the status quo will remain for Grenada Village until the next review which is not expected before 2019/2020.

We do not accept this situation and are strongly requesting that the service to and from Grenada Village (and Paparangi) revert back to travelling via Newlands Road to the City which is what it was prior to the controversial change that took effect in 2008.

The current unpopular route travels from Grenada Village through Paparangi via Beazley Avenue and Bracken Road to Newlands, then, goes up over Stewart Drive to the Johnsonville hub beside the railway station, back out to Johnsonville Main Road, then down Ngauranga Gorge into the City.

This circuitous and unnecessary route adds a further 20-25 minutes onto the journey compared to the pre 2008 route and even longer at times during peak periods when traffic in Johnsonville is extremely heavy. Further delays often occur in Johnsonville when the buses either fill up or empty of commuters travelling only to and from Johnsonville.

All this has produced a substantial disincentive to use the service. Furthermore, the current timetable is regularly not realistic to actual performance.

Our proposed route (as it was prior 2008) is for the service to and from Grenada Village to begin and end in Johnsonville. The southbound buses to the City would travel from Johnsonville to Grenada Village via Helston Road, then Mark Avenue, Gualdeloupe Crescent, Mark Avenue/Grenada Drive roundabout then back down Mark Avenue, on to Paparangi, to Newlands Park, down Newlands Road, Ngauranga Gorge to Courtenay Place. The northbound service from Courtenay Place to Johnsonville via Grenada Village is the same route in reverse. The travelling time from Grenada Village is 30-35 minutes even during peak traffic times. This service provides a reasonably fast journey to the city and also caters very well for those residents of Grenada Village and Paparangi that wished to travel to Johnsonville via the outbound buses.

During peak hours, the northbound route should be an ‘express service’ with the first stop being in Bracken Road to avoid the over capacity that has occurred previously because of the use by Newlands residents.

This proposal covers the two scenarios for Grenada Village and Paparangi residents – to and from the city, and to and from Johnsonville.

It is important that a bus service is provided to and from Johnsonville as for a great many residents this is where their doctors, dentists, bankers, shops, churches, gyms, schools, etc. are located along with the only library, swimming pool, retirement villages, and railway station etc.

The GWRC Officers simply do not accept our proposal.

We arranged yet a further meeting with some members of GWRC’s Environmental Wellbeing Committee to further our case, but this has since also been rejected. The reasons stated are:

- Our proposed route requires 25% more bus kilometres to run compared to the current route via Stewart Drive and Johnsonville (this is absolutely wrong).
• The current Grenada Village/Paparangi bus route provides 30% of the bus capacity out of Johnsonville in the morning peak – (this can easily be overcome by reversing the route of Route 56 to provide the capacity).

• Our proposed route would result in a longer journey time for the commuters in Helston Road – (only a very few compared to all of Grenada Village and the bulk of Paparangi).

For these reasons GWRC were of the view that the current route servicing Grenada Village is the most suitable at present and has to remain as it is.

We do have a further meeting with GWRC early next year where we will continue the discussions, however we may still not be able to change their 'set in concrete' decision.

JOHNSONVILLE COMMUNITY POLICE STATION

While the station is now the District CID Base housing 26 detectives under a roster to provide 24 hour coverage, it still remains as the northern base for community constables – nothing has changed for them.

WEBSITE

Our website address is: www.grenadavillage.org.nz

The site provides information on the amenities available to residents within the suburb, and outlines some of the history and development of the area.

It also provides information about the characteristics and features of Grenada Village as it was our intention if it becoming a reference point for past, present and future residents of the community. It is also to convey the role, objectives and activities of the Grenada Village Community Association Inc.

The site is overall quite large with several sub-sections off the prime categories in the main menu.

We are looking towards modernising the site next year.

SETON NOSSITER PARK

The Park has a Facebook page thanks to Penny Krieg.

The link is: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Seton-Nossiter-Park/408825812498873

We have an 'Adopt-a-Spot' programme. Adopt-a-Spot provides people with an opportunity to restore their own area of the park. It requires commitment but also provides the opportunity to encourage young family members to care for their surroundings and leads to immense satisfaction as the plants grow. If you would like to Adopt-a-Spot, please contact Bruce Patterson - 478 4221.

PLAYGROUP

The Grenada Village Playgroup for all pre-school children living in Grenada Village is held every Monday morning between 9.30am and 11.30am at the Grenada Village Community Hall, 4 Mandeville Crescent, next to the children's play area. Please note now Monday mornings, not Tuesday as previously.

Morning tea is provided for the children (crackers and biscuits, fruit and water) along with tea and coffee for the adults.

A variety of children’s toys and other activities are available.

Gold coin donation per child please to help cover expenses.

For further information please telephone Dawn - 478 4221.

TEEN COURT

As in past years the tennis courts will remain locked to prevent them from being misused, particularly by those from outside the area. Access is provided to financial members of the Grenada Village Community Association by obtaining a key from any of the key-holders listed below.

These are not general public courts, but are for the use of current members only. They are responsible and accountable for the management and administration of them. If you wish to play, all we ask is that you assist us with their day-to-day upkeep by becoming a member of the Association.

We would like to remind all players to observe the following basic rules:

• Games should be restricted to 30 minutes if others are waiting.

• No bad language or unacceptable behaviour on the courts as the children’s play area adjoins the area.

• The keys are to be returned to the key-holder immediately after use.

This year’s key-holders are:

Bruce Patterson Tel: 478 4221
William Nobelen Tel: 478 1091
Barry Kooistra Tel: 477 3472

BITS & PIECES

• A lot of work has been undertaken with the drainage on the Mark Avenue sportsfields which hopefully will make this area not so wet and boggy as it has been in the past.

• The new traffic speed indicator in Mark Avenue is proving its worth.

• The new road off Grenada Drive previously referred to as Topoill Terrace has now officially been named Aruba Grove, following the Caribbean theme used in this suburb. Aruba is a 33 kilometre long island in the Leeward Antilles Arc of the Lesser Antilles in the southern part of the Caribbean. It has a land area of 178 square kilometres and is densely populated.

• The saga of signage on the motorway near the off ramps indicating the exits to Grenada Village still continues. This has gone on since October 2008 when Mark Avenue extension was connected to Grenada Drive but NZ Transport Agency remains adamant that only two names are permitted on the existing signs and to have Grenada Village added it is necessary to replace one of the existing names – either Churton Park or Glenside.

• To keep track of what the Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade is up to and to keep up with fire safety tips, visit their web site, www.newlandsfire.org.nz
MEMBERSHIP OF THE
GRENADA VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

(1 October 2013 - 30 September 2014)

I/We would like to become a financial member of the Grenada Village Community Association for the 2013 - 2014 financial year

Enclosed is payment of $10.00 covering the 2013 - 2014 subscription

Name:.................................................................

Address:.................................................................

Telephone No:.....................................................

Please post or deliver to: Grenada Village Community Association Inc.
4 Mandeville Crescent
Grenada Village
Wellington 6037

A numbered 2013 - 2014 membership card will be forwarded to you in due course.