

Midtown Brandywine

A quarterly publication of the Midtown
Brandywine Neighbors Association

Matters

midtownbrandywine@gmail.com

Summer 2008

www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington.de/mbna

Mark Your Calendar

The Art Loop - LoMa Design District.	8/1/08	Lower Market Street
City Life Block Party - Blues Power Happy Hour	8/6/08	Plaza at City Center
Movie Night in Midtown Brandywine	8/7/08	West Street Park
The Art Loop "First Friday"(Look for the Brandywine 10)	9/5/08	Refresh: Delaware Art Museum
The Art Loop "First Friday"	10/3/08	Refresh: Opera Delaware Studios

Blues Power Happy Hour: Local blues musicians will rock the Plaza at City Center from 5 to 9 p.m. while Ameritage Bistro, Cafe Mezzanotte, Deep Blue and The Exchange serve up the food. Beer, wine, soda and water will be available. The block party is just in time to kick off the Riverfront Blues Festival which will be held on the riverfront from Aug. 8 to the 10th. In case of rain, the event will be held inside the former Costa's Restaurant directly off the plaza.

The Art Loop: The LoMa Design District is located in the lower end of Market St., from MLK Blvd. to 6th St. On Friday, 8/1, the LoMa Loop will bring artists, musicians and more to Art on the Town loops. The art loop will be from 5 to 8 p.m. with an outdoor re:Fresh After Party on the 200 block of Market Street from 8 to 11 p.m. The shells on the 200 block of Market Street will become art galleries. Food and drinks will be available and Market Street will be lined with art vendors. Attendees can bring art supplies to donate to local organizations and senior centers that are in need of art materials. In addition to an outdoor art fair, DJs will provide subtle music during the art loop and then will switch it up to dance music at 8 p.m.

LIGHTS!!! LIGHTS!!! LIGHTS!!!

Please remember to turn your front and back lights on at night. There is always a spike in crime during the warmer summer months. Perpetrators will avoid the lighted areas favoring darker ones. Protect your homes and automobiles with well lit streets and back yards.

Movies in the Park

What a wonderful turn out on 7/2 for our first Midtown Brandywine Movies Under the Stars showing of *Little Miss Sunshine*. Thank you to everyone who made it such a success. We extend a special thanks to Travis Crumley and Ali Reese for all their work on the park and to Joel Stango for organizing this event. Don't forget to save the date on 8/7 (rain date 8/8) for our next out door movie night in the West Street Park when we will show the vintage Hitchcock suspense thriller *North by Northwest*. We invite neighbors and friends to bring a snack and a chair. The neighborhood association will provide beverages.



Annual Yard Sale

Many of the neighbors participated in the Yard Sale this year, placing items for sale in front of their homes. Early morning was quite active, with shoppers shopping and neighbors socializing. During the late morning as the temperature rose the shoppers began to fade. The turnout for this year's sale

was not as successful as last year. However, it was a great time to chat with our neighbors and catch up on some news. Next year with everybody's help and if Mother Nature is being agreeable, this event will be better than ever.

The Midtown Brandywine 10

We are artists, who just happen to be your neighbors -- or are we neighbors, who just happen to be artists? The 10 are: (in alphabetical order): Tom Davis, Lyn Doto, Catherine Drabkin, Pahl Hlucan, Trish Kocher, Rich Neumann, Bill Montgomery, Danielle Quigley, Ken Tattersall, and Carol Woolworth. The Midtown Brandywine 10 have everything in common: a love of art, love of our neighborhood, and love of a good time.

The Midtown Brandywine 10 have nothing in common: some are painters, some are photographers; some are professionals, some are amateurs; some are classically trained, some are self-taught, and one or two claim to be untrainable. Together, we make beautiful art!

The Midtown Brandywine 10 are holding their first-ever group exhibit at 919 Gallery (919 Market Street). The exhibit opens on Friday, 9/5 and runs through 9/26. We invite all Midtown Brandywiners and friends to come anytime during the exhibit's run. Be sure to be there on opening night: 9/5, from 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. for fun, festivities, wine, and snacks! The Midtown Brandywine 10 love a good party!

Read Any Good Books Lately?

Neighbor Pati Nash is looking to start a monthly Book Club this fall. She has spoken with a few people in the neighborhood and there seems to be enough interest. As you all know, everyone reads the same book each month and gets together to discuss the book (and usually have a bite to eat and some drinks). Some clubs concentrate on certain genres or themes (i.e.: Classics or Non-Fiction, etc.) The group can decide whether they want to go this route or just pick a good novel each month. It's a great way to read some good books and meet your neighbors through the fall and winter. Anyone interested, please call Pati at 655-2348. Thanks!



Christiana Hospital

Gary Ferguson, COO of Christiana Care which owns and operates Wilmington Hospital, gave a progress report on the Hospital's master construction plan on 6/9. Mr. Ferguson said they were expecting to break ground in November and start real construction in January '09. The construction is likely to take up to five years, with occupation of the new buildings in 2012. All subcontractors will be parking off site using shuttle busses to get to the job site. Christiana Care recently purchased the two lots on Washington Street to use as construction staging areas. Construction times will be 7:00 am to 3:00 pm or 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, 5 days a week with occasional work being done on Saturdays.

The construction of sewer and water tie-ins will cause the closure of 14th Street between West and Washington Streets sometime this fall for 4 weeks.

Mr. Ferguson is available to answer your questions or address any concerns you may have. He may be reached at 302-733-1321

Feral Cats

Many of our neighbors are concerned with the growing numbers of feral cats. The Brandywine Neighborhood Association promotes the "Trap Neuter and Return" (TNR) method as an effective way to control the feral population. TNR involves trapping feral cats and transporting them to a clinic where they are spayed/neutered, and given vaccinations and medical treatment. One of the ears is clipped so that you can easily recognize a cat that has been spayed/neutered. After surgery the cat is returned back to the colony habitat. Kittens and tame cats are placed in foster homes. Since the cats are no longer reproducing, the colony will gradually diminish in size. By reducing or eliminating fighting and wandering, TNR makes the colony more stable, impacts the influx of newcomers, and improves the health of the cats.

Apparently, trapping and killing does not work very well. After 100 years of killing, feral cats still roam the earth. Why doesn't killing work? Removing cats from an area only allows another colony to move into its place in order to take advan-



tage of the food source that once supported the first colony. Essentially you would have to trap and kill every cat at once in order to kill all the cats. The TNR option allows you to stabilize an area. Once the cat colony is stabilized, the colony will defend its territory and keep other cats from moving in. If you would like more information about TNR, please contact Forgotten Cats at: 429-0124 Email: info@forgottencats.org Web site: www.forgottencats.com

Midtown Brandywine Residents Receive a \$20.00 Driving Discount from PhillyCarShare

Have any of you heard about PhillyCarShare.org? I joined just before the lease was up on my Saab. The basic membership is free. You become a member of their program and that allows you the use of a Toyota, Prius, or a Mini Cooper. Those are the cars they have here in Wilmington at different locations in the downtown area. You reserve a car by the hour and return it to the designated location where you picked it up. I use the location on the corner of 9th and French. The fee you pay includes gas and car insurance. Since I no longer have a car, offering insurance at no extra charge is terrific. That's it! NO gasoline price worries, NO insurance hassles, NO worrying about which side of the street to park on, NO maintenance schedules. Just reserve, drive and return!

Ok I know what you're thinking; I've had a car since 1972. It wasn't an easy decision. Living close to work as I do, I walk to work. My car just sat, certainly it is convenient to have a car, but in these tough economic times certain sacrifices have to be made. Also, there is the environment to consider. I'm doing my part to help preserve our ability to exist on the planet. There are health benefits too! It's a bit liberating actually. I'm walking more than ever now and it is a pleasure.

Now for the good news! I contacted PhillyCarShare.org and told them about our neighborhood organization and our plans to put an article about them in our newsletter and guess what! They offered us a new member discount! That's right! **They are giving us \$20 of driving credit for new members.** This means if you sign up with the following promo code you will get \$20 of driving credit applied to your account. The promo code to use is "**Midtown Brandywine.**" The offer is good for new accounts only and it expires 8/31/08. Try it out to see if you can benefit from its use. Become a member and instead of using your vehicle, try theirs and see how you like it. Perhaps if you are thinking about becoming a 2 car family, this is an alternative that will benefit you. Maybe if enough of us participate in the program we can get a car back in the neighborhood. I understand there was a car at Orange and 14th once. We would have to find a location for them to park a car. It would have to be a visible location, after all this is a business and the more people who know about them and join the better.

For more information about PhillyCarShare.org, please visit them on their website.

Well dear neighbors, that's my story and I'm sticking to it! I wish you all a happy and safe summer!

— DeAnna Cardenas

Committee Members News & Views

If you would like to volunteer on a committee, or if you have suggestions and comments, please contact the chair of the committee, or email us at midtownbrandywine@gmail.com

Committee Chairs:

Communications: Rita Berry 388-7420

Spring/Fall Clean Ups: Ken Tattersall 651-7013

Crime Prevention: Dan Walsh 516-909-1987

Land Use & Vacant Housing: Alex Karlsen 893-7057

Streetscape: Jessica Reed 426-9129

Nominating Committee: Faith McNamara 545-8207

Block Party: Doug McLaughlin 654-1741

Nominating Committee Recruits Full Board

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Liz Freeman, Faith McNamara, Jessica Reed and Joel Stango is proud to present the following Board of Directors. Below is a list of members and their terms.

Serving for 2007 to 2009:

Nancy Cooper*, Liz Freeman, Alex Karlsen, John Kirk, Pati Nash, Jennifer McNally, Ken Tattersall

Serving for 2008 to 2010:

Rita Berry, Rob Butts, Laura Collins*, Travis Crumley*, Doug McLaughlin, Faith McNamara, Jessica Reed, Nomi Steen*, Dan Walsh*

*These members were newly elected during June's general meeting.

The Executive Committee:

Liz Freeman, President

Ken Tattersall, Vice President

Jessica Reed, Secretary

Rob Butts, Treasurer

The nominating committee wants to extend its deepest gratitude to Brian George and Judith Armstrong who are leaving the board and moving from Midtown. Their time, treasure and talents will be missed, as will they.

Midtown also wants to thank Joel Stango who is thankfully staying in the neighborhood, but regretfully leaving the board. His leadership and numerous contributions have helped to strengthen our neighborhood.

Communications Committee

Recycle Bank:

Did you know that you do not need a computer to take advantage of the RecycleBank coupons? Simply call them at 877-727-2978. They will gladly tell you your balance and order rewards for you as well as provide you with any other information you require.

Web site calendar:

Our newsletter publishes events in the neighborhood and the downtown area which are happening in the current quarter. Our Web site lists events going on throughout the year. We also post past newsletters, "Businesses We Like & Recommend" and The Resident's Guide as well as link Web

sites that are relevant to our community.

Your suggestions are always welcome. If you know of an event coming up that you would like to share with your neighbors please let us know about it so that we can pass it on.

Vacant Properties & Land Use Committee

Neighbors can view vacant properties on

www.ci.wilmington.de.us/vacantproperties/properties.htm

If you think a property is vacant or looks derelict contact the city. (\$50 tickets can be issued.) Contacts for the program are:

Cynthia Ferguson at 302-576-3030

cferguson@ci.wilmington.de.us

or

Greg Solomon at 302-576-3043

gsoloman@ci.wilmington.de.us

Please make sure you receive a tracker # for your inquiry and call. Remember this! The city does not know about many of the vacant or derelict properties. The people residing in the neighborhoods need to tell them.

Crime Prevention Committee

It is crucial that all neighbors in Midtown Brandywine make calls when they witness anything that alarms them.

The Wilmington Police Department has explained in our community meetings that neighbors calling enhances their drive through efforts & allows the WPD to police Midtown Brandywine more efficiently & effectively.

Too often we think that calling will not solve issues, but in reality, doing nothing will cause nothing & hurt future efforts. Please help by showing the WPD & criminals that we care about our neighborhood.

Neighbors can report incidents anonymously & non urgently. Here is how:

Toll-Free Crime Tip Hotline (new)

1-866-WILMTIP (1-866-945-6847)

This toll-free crime tip hotline enables any citizen, anywhere, to leave a confidential, recorded message about criminal activity in Wilmington, the location of the activity, the time of day it is occurring and any information about suspects or vehicles owned or used by suspected criminals. All information supplied through the new crime tip hotline will be kept confidential.

Non-emergency crimes or nuisances.

654-5151 - Community Policing

Prepare to give exact location or address of problem.

Emergencies

911 - Wilmington Police

Use this number for emergencies and crimes in progress.

Constituent Services - Marcia Starks - 576-3112

One-stop shop...call Marcia for ANY community problems, concerns or complaints, including:

Graffiti, potholes, utilities (street lights out, etc.), abandoned cars, shoes on wires, drug activity, loitering.

More Suggestions on Curtailing Crime

Are you going on vacation this summer? Do not advertise your plans. Inform one or two persons such as a trusted neighbor who can keep an eye on things while you are gone. Have them pick up your newspaper and other deliveries. Do not forget to arrange to have the plants watered in order to maintain a lived-in appearance.

An appearance of occupancy, even when your residence is vacant, is essential to reducing the likelihood of burglary attempts. Timers which automatically regulate the interior lighting of a home can create such a deception. Timers should be used while on vacation, when you are out to dinner or even during the day while you are at work. One type of automatic timer has a 24-hour dial and allows you to set an on-and-off time to coincide with normal light usage in your home. These timers simply plug into the wall, and the lamp you want to use is plugged into the timer. For the most realistic deception, several timers and lamps should be used to simulate occupancy. For instance, a radio and lamp in the living room might be on from 6:30 pm to 11:00 pm; at 11:00 pm a lamp might go on in the bathroom until 11:30 pm; then a bedroom lamp would be on from 11:30 pm to midnight. This would indicate to anyone watching the house that it was occupied and the residents were going to bed. During the day, leave drapes and shades in their normal position the way you have them when at home.



Where are 1331 and 1333 West Street?

In the space where West Street Park stands today there once were two houses attached to 1329 and 1335. This photo from around 1969 also shows a traffic light on the corner of 14th and West. The park is maintained by the residents of Midtown Brandywine. Join us for the next clean up day in the fall!

Newsletter Contact:

Rita Berry at 388-7420 or ritaberry333@hotmail.com

Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood general email:
midtownbrandywine@gmail.com

Businesses We Like & Recommend

Our neighbor, Dan Walsh, would like to introduce you to a new barber shop in the City of Wilmington, "THE SHOP", has arrived. Actually, it's not a new shop. It was the previously owned Image Hair Salon, in the PNC Bank Building on



Delaware Avenue and Tatnall Street. The new owner Georgie McCusker, does know his way around a barber chair, however. Georgie began cutting hair about 15 years ago. During that time, he worked a number of years in Newark and had quite a following. With the real estate

boom in Florida, he spread his wings, purchased a condo and worked with an upscale barber shop, outside Miami for five years. During trips home to Delaware, he couldn't help but notice the changes City of Wilmington had undergone. He was looking for a place that could cater to both the on-the-move corporate gentlemen, as well as the working guy that cannot get out of the city early enough to get a hair cut, before the children's soccer game. Well, he found the perfect spot. Together, with John DiSipio's clients, Georgie's previous clients, and the clients that come to the city, just for one of Georgie's cuts, "THE SHOP" is taking off in a new direction. Aside from the esthetics, you will still see John, as well as the popular, Bonnie Clements and Otto. The clients still receive the same great service with a few new perks; like free snacks and beverages, while the kids watch a DVD to keep them occupied during their hair cuts. Hours are Monday through Friday 8am to 5:30pm, Saturday 8am to 1pm. Walk-ins are always welcome or call to schedule an appointment (302) 426-9900. See you at "The Shop".

There have been a few requests from neighbors asking for **housekeeping**. Can you recommend anyone?

If you would like to recommend a company or individual please contact Rita Berry at 388-7420. For a complete list of past featured businesses please visit our Web site.

Save a tree!

We are looking forward to having a paperless neighborhood next year. Please send us your email addresses at midtownbrandywine@gmail.com. (Your email address will be kept confidential.) Next year we will be emailing the newsletter and flyers to you. If you do not have a computer, please give us a call. We will create a list of addresses that will receive printed copies



**Look for our next Quarterly issue
coming in October 2008**