

Midtown Brandywine

A quarterly publication of the Midtown
Brandywine Neighbors Association

Winter 2008

Matters

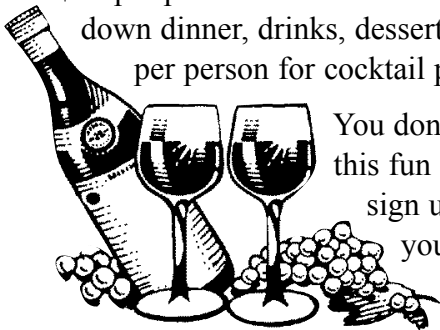
Calendar of Events

Progressive Dinner 04.05.08..... Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood
Neighborhood Yard Sale April 2008 Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood
Spring Clean Up Spring 2008..... Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood
Annual Association Meeting..... 06.09.08..... Little Church

The Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood Association Progressive Dinner Party 2008!!!

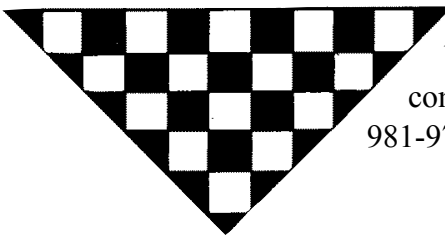
Save The Date! April 5, 2008. Join your neighbors
and bring your friends to have drinks, fun and deli-
cious food prepared and served by your neighbors.

\$30 per person includes a cocktail party, sit-
down dinner, drinks, desserts and coffee. \$20
per person for cocktail party only.



You don't want to miss
this fun fund-raiser! To
sign up early, volunteer
your help, contribute
an appetizer or a
dessert contact

Brian George at:
briantgorge@
comcast.net or call
981-9743.



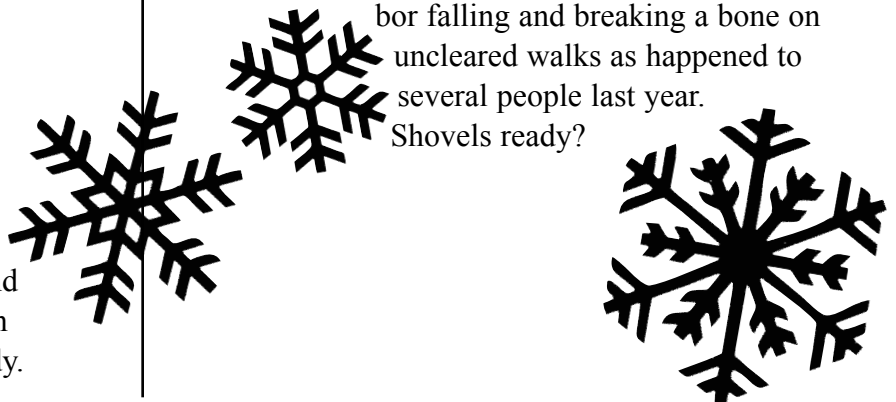
Shovels at the Ready!

Winter has finally arrived, and with it the
threat of snow accumulating on roofs and
roads, shrubs and sidewalks. While we may
simply admire the beauty of snow on roofs,
roads, and shrubs, when it comes to snow and
ice on sidewalks everyone living in Midtown
Brandywine needs to have their shovels ready.

According to the Wilmington City Code (Article
VII, Sec. 42-416 to 42-421) within 24 hours after
the snow stops or the ice forms, we are each
responsible for removing snow and ice from one
half of the sidewalk along the building line of our
property and making a two-foot path from this
cleared part to the street. Snow and ice removed
from the sidewalk is to be deposited on the
uncleared part of the sidewalk, not in the gutter.

And, yes, this includes even those of us who rent
houses or apartments in the neighborhood. The
City Code specifies that the "occupant" of the
property has the first responsibility, followed by
the lessee, the owner, and the agent. If you are
physically unable to shovel, there are usually
strong young people roaming the neighborhood
after a storm looking for some work, or you may
find one or more of your neighbors will help you
out. But it is still your responsibility!

Violators are subject to fines and court costs. And
none of us wants to be the cause of another neigh-
bor falling and breaking a bone on
uncleared walks as happened to
several people last year.
Shovels ready?



Clean Sweep

November 17, was clean up day in Midtown Brandywine. Neighborhood residents who helped sweep up the leaves and debris were rewarded with pizza and beer in the park afterward. The West Street Park, McKinley Monument and other areas were raked, trimmed and weeded. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in and to Ken Tattersall for once again organizing the event. Special thanks go to Travis Crumley's parents who cleaned out the West Street Park when Travis moved into the house adjacent to the park. The efforts of our fellow residents make this a great area to live in.

If your weekly recyclables are not enough to fill the large 64 gallon container that was provided, or if you don't like dragging the large 64 gallon container through your house and down to the street, you can contact Recycle Bank at www.recyclebank.com or call TOLL FREE: 1-888-RB-PAYSU to get a smaller 35 gallon container.



that you order, it's free! You can go online to RecycleBank.com or call 888-727-2978 to order a container. Thursday: Everything in your own personal waste container (put your address on it, the lid too!) NOTE: Don't leave a visible mess (i.e. boxes, packing materials and other

discarded items) outside your new home. You will receive a ticket for trash in front of your home, there is a "Keep Wilmington Clean" ordinance. Place everything inside your trash and refuse containers until pick up day or don't put it out until pick up day.

Parking:

You must acquire a parking pass from the City County office on 800 N French Street www.ci.wilmington.de.us/forms.htm Pay strict attention to the No Parking signs and the days you can or cannot park on which side of the street, your car will be ticketed if you are parked on the wrong side. Some relief though, it's seasonal! Check the signs! *The News Journal*, Wilmington's newspaper, can be accessed online also. www.delawareonline.com

Welcome New Neighbors

The Welcoming Committee welcomes to the Neighborhood one and all who have moved here in the last year! We hope 2008 will be a prosperous, happy and safe year for everyone.

Moving into a new neighborhood, you may have some questions about where places are, what services are available, when do things happen and how do you take advantage of everything the neighborhood has to offer. We can help answer some those questions for you. Please visit our neighborhood web site for detailed information regarding the neighborhood, city, county, state and cultural links.

Trash Day:

Monday: Recyclable non biologicals (plastics, glass cardboard, paper) – in a special container

Midtown Brandywine Annual Yard Sale

Each spring we sponsor a neighborhood yard sale. Last spring approximately 20 families held a sale in front of their homes. It is a wonderful opportunity to browse around the neighborhood to meet your neighbors and find some hidden treasures. Please look for flyers coming early Spring to announce the date. Next month you will also find the date posted on our Web site.



Here are a few tips:

Be clear on the purpose of your sale. Are you selling things to make money or to get rid of them? This question affects everything you do, from how you price things to how willing you are to negotiate. You can often make more money by pricing things low and selling more.

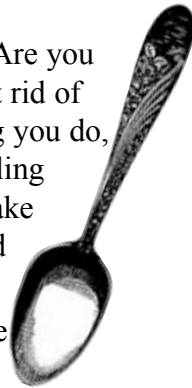
Be prepared. Be ready the night before so that you don't have to rush in the morning. Prospective buyers will begin to arrive a half hour before "starting time". Label everything clearly.

Get cash. Get a roll of quarters, a stack of twenty-five \$1 bills, and a few \$5 bills. Do not use a cash box. Keep your money on you at all times.

Prepare your area. Make your sale inviting and easy to browse. You can lure customers by placing highly-desirable items nearest to the sidewalk.

Think like a customer. Are things clearly marked? Is it easy to move around? Are your books on the ground in boxes or are they placed neatly on a shelf or table? Would you pay \$5 for a Blue Hen's beer mug with a crack in it? Price things carefully.

Display items to their advantage. Don't leave folding chairs folded up and leaning against a wall, open them up so they can be seen and sat in.



Play background music. Play something appropriate for your audience. Something easy to the ear on a sunny weekend morning.

Promote expensive items. Big-ticket items can be tough to sell. For example, if you have a digital camera or a computer. Gather all the parts and extra gadgets and place them together with a printout from the manufacturer explaining the item.

Make it easy for buyers to test items. If you're selling electrical items, have an extension cord handy so that people can test them. Also, have some batteries on hand so that a buyer can test battery operated items. If you put a little effort into creating an environment where it is pleasant to browse and easy to find hidden treasures, you'll make more money.



Board Meeting Minutes

Please go to www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/mbna for a complete document.

We are sorry to announce that Lauren Anderson is leaving Midtown Brandywine and has resigned as President of our association. She will be missed, but we wish her much happiness in her new home. As Lauren steps down, our Vice President, Liz Freeman will fill her post as our new President.

Committee Members News & Views

If you would like to volunteer on the committees, or if you have suggestions and comments, please contact the chair of the committee.

Committee Chairs:

Block Party: Brian George 981-7943

Communications: Rita Berry 388-7420

Clean Ups: Ken Tattersall 652-7013

Crime Prevention: John Kirk 383-1487

Vacant Properties & Land Use: Alex Karlsen 893-7057

Progressive Dinner: Brian George 981-7943

Streetscape: Joel Stango 655-8003

Communications Committee

Rita Berry, Chairperson

www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/mbna

Our Web Site has undergone many updates. We have put a page on the site dedicated to local businesses and service providers. If anyone would like to be listed on this directory or if you have someone you would like to recommend (tutors, babysitters, skin-care distributors, handymen, contractors, dog walkers, etc.) send us an email with your information. Anyone in need of any of the above services may simply view this list. Why not help support our local businesses and entrepreneurs whenever possible?

Vacant Properties & Land Use Committee

Alex Karlson, Chairperson

Neighbors can view vacant properties on www.ci.wilmington.de.us/vacantproperties/properties.htm

If you think a property is vacant or looks derelict (\$50 tickets can be issued) contact:

Cynthia Ferguson at 576-3060

cferguson@ci.wilmington.de.us or

Greg Solomon at 576-3043

gsoloman@ci.wilmington.de.us

Please make sure you receive a tracker number for your inquiry and call.

Crime Prevention Committee

John Kirk, Chairperson

Nuisance crimes affect everyone. These types of crimes include, but are not limited to disorderly conduct, panhandling, intoxication, lewdness, drug use, vandalism, property theft and graffiti. It is important that you call the police department to inform them of these incidents. By calling them, you have put our neighborhood on their radar. If you don't call the police, they won't know these crimes are happening here. These crimes aren't "just a nuisance"; they can become dangerous and expensive.

For nuisance crimes call the police at: 654-5151.

Things You Can Do At Home

- Keep exterior lights on at night.
- Trim shrubs near your home so that intruders cannot hide there.

- Lock doors and windows when you are in your back yard.
- Get to know your neighbors, know who belongs here and who does not.
- Be alert when leaving your car.
- Call police if suspicious individuals appear on your block.

When You Are Away From Home

- Lock your doors and windows.
- Use timers on lights to make your home look lived in.
- Stop mail and newspapers or ask your neighbor to gather these items for you.
- Upon returning home, don't enter your home if it appears a door or window has been opened.

Streetscape Committee

Joel Stango, Chairperson

Don't you just love the new street lighting and brick sidewalks that can be seen around the neighborhood while strolling home from dining downtown? Midtown Brandywine neighborhood has a streetscape plan for improving our safety, security, home values and general quality of life. It continues the lighting, planters and brick sidewalks throughout the entire neighborhood.

If you have ideas for fundraising; want to be a part of Streetscape committee or want to view the existing plans, you can contact the Streetscape committee chair, Joel Stango at 655-8003 or stangoff@comcast.net.

Please Clean Up After Your Dog

The West Street Park is maintained by the neighborhood, **not** the City of Wilmington.

The trash can is put out by your fellow residents on pick up days and the park is weeded and swept by neighborhood volunteers. As a courtesy to *them*, please clean up after your dog in the park. We love your dogs but we don't want to come across their droppings in the park.



Resident's Guide: "Who's Who and What's To Do"

If you did not receive your copy that was distributed with the Fall newsletter and would like one, please contact Rita Berry at 388-7420. You can also find a PDF of it on our neighborhood Web site.

**Look for our next quarterly
issue coming in April 2008.**



Contact Newsletter at midtownbrandymatters@hotmail.com
or call Rita Berry at 388-7420.

Businesses We Like & Recommend

Eric Hamlen

Greenway Lawn & Landscape

655-4130

Eric has designed and created some of our lovely neighborhood yards as well been involved with the neighborhood streetscape.

Chris & Rob Vanderslice

"The Handyman"

750-2490

Give us your to-do list i.e. doors, floors, windows, painting, carpentry etc.

Tony Palmer & Sons

897-7212

Power Washing, Debris Removal, Gutting Houses, Trash Removal, Hauling, Snow Plowing, Bush Hogging, Grading Driveways

For a complete list of recommended businesses please go to our website at www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/mbna If you have recommendations please contact the newsletter at: midtownbrandywinematters@hotmail.com or call Rita Berry at 388-7420.



The Washington Street Bridge Winter 2006

Brandywine Park, Wilmington's first city park, was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1976. Brandywine Park was laid out in consultation with Frederick Law Olmstead, an advocate of the naturalistic style of park design and one of the designers of New York's Central Park. It is one of the finest examples of landscape architecture in Delaware.