

Midtown Brandywine

A quarterly publication of the Midtown
Brandywine Neighbors Association

Matters

www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington.de/mbna

Spring 2008

Calendar of Events

Neighborhood Yard Sale.....	6/07/08.....	Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood
City Restaurant Week.....	4/28-5/3/08.....	Downtown
2nd Annual Wilmington Grand Prix.....	5/14-5/17/08.....	Market Street
Annual Association Meeting.....	06/09/08.....	Little Church
Movie Night in Midtown.....	TBD.....	West Street Park

City Restaurant Week – April 28 to May 3. Ten downtown and Riverfront restaurants will feature \$15 two course lunches and \$35 three course dinners. Participating restaurants include The Exchange, Café Mezzanotte, Ameritage, Deep Blue, Mikimotos, Washington Street Ale House, Conley Ward's Steakhouse, Harry's Seafood Grill, The Green Room at the Hotel du Pont, and Domaine Hudson.

The 2nd Annual Wilmington Grand Prix – May 14 to May 17. This USA Cycling National Racing Event has a full calendar of events. Check out www.wilmingtongrandprix.com for details. You will find a full day of events for Saturday, May 17 which include amateur races and a "Worlds Largest Bike Parade". It's a fun time!

Movie Night in Midtown – Midtown Brandywine Neighbors Association will be showing two movies this summer in West Street park. We are inviting neighbors and friends to bring a picnic and a chair for some fun under the stars. We are compiling a list of movies for consideration so if you have a suggestion, please forward to stangoff@comcast.net.



Of Special Interest

Urban Bike Project

Our neighbor, Kate Bayard, would like to pass on information about a local group called the Urban Bike Project. They are a non-profit, volunteer run bike shop, located in the basement of the old Mammeles building on Market Street. UBP will have bikes available for rent or purchase. They will repair bikes, offer classes on a variety of topics including bike riding & repair, and will hold various biking events. UBP also accepts donations of used bikes or bike parts. This is exciting news for our community. Kate is looking forward to taking one of their bikes out for a spin around the Brandywine. A big thank you to Kate for sharing this information with the rest of the neighborhood.

<http://urbanbikeproject.org/>.



Seventh Annual Wilmington Awards

The City of Wilmington is soliciting new nominations for the Seventh Annual Wilmington Awards. The awards program recognizes outstanding accomplishments of

distinguished Wilmington citizens who excel in the fields of the arts, athletics, business, education, government, health or science and professional service. It also recognizes others for their community service, heroism, contributions to the faith community, and dedication to the cause of human civil rights. In addition, senior citizens are recognized for their accomplishments.

Eligibility for the awards is based on any of the following general criteria:

Excellence in a field of endeavor, which inspires others to higher levels of achievement.

Demonstrated contributions a field, organization or cause, which have a lasting influence on others.

Outstanding community service, which results in a marked improvement to the quality of life in our City.

Personal or professional accomplishments, which serve as an inspiration to others.

Acts of heroism in the defense of others.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, May 30, 2008.

The awards ceremony will be held Wednesday, October 1, 2008 in the City/County Council Chambers.

If you would like to nominate someone please contact Rita Berry at 388-7420 for a form or call the city directly at 576-2100. You can also find a form on our Web site.

Progressive Dinner

The Progressive Dinner, once again, was a huge success. The food was delicious and the company delightful. The dinner is always a great way to catch up with old neighbors, meet new neighbors and reunite with alumni neighbors.

We'd like to thank our host homes for their hospitality and all those responsible for organizing this event every year.

Trish & Glenn Kocher

John & Susan Stafford

Liz Freeman

Ken Tattersall

Alan Maples & Nora McCafferty

Carlos Monterera-Hicks and Adolide Wallace

Cindy Ramsay

Roland Roth & Nomi Steen

Kathy Kunkel & Roy Podorson

Alice Davis

Patti Nash

Rob Butts

Joel Stango & Bob Goff

Geena & Brian George

Rita Berry



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

Land Use & Vacant Housing: Alex Karlsen 893-7057

Progressive Dinner: Brian George 981-7943

Streetscape: Joel Stango 655-8003

Nominating Committee: Faith McNamara 545-8207

Communications Committee

Did you receive the Resident's Guide last summer? If not, contact Rita Berry at 388-7420. The guide will provide you with many useful local government telephone numbers and a list of current board members. Or if you prefer, go to our Web site for updated information. If you have calendar items or other information of interest that you would like to share with our neighborhood, please contact Rita Berry.

Land Use & Vacant Housing Committee

Stanley Lewicki's property on 1309 West Street was denied his appeal on Monday March 10th, 2008 for citations relating to his lengthy vacancy. Mr. Lewicki owns multiple vacant properties in the city and frequently appeals his fines. The Midtown Brandywine Land Use & Vacant Housing Committee & Board of Directors would like to thank the some 15 neighbors who came to City Council Chambers to show support at the hearing.

1309 West Street is structurally flawed & the front porch is currently being supported by wooden posts. The process will be long, so please keep the momentum going!

Crime Prevention Committee

We have become complacent and vulnerable because of alarm systems and high tech equipment that we rely on to protect our home and our possessions. However, paying attention to the basics will help keep us from becoming victims of crime.

The following basics are what we all need to remember:

- Check to make sure all doors are installed properly, hinges to the inside, locks that have at least a three-quarter to one inch throw, and a peephole properly placed in the door.
- Sliding glass doors should have special locks mounted or a well-placed broomstick in the track – which will make it almost impossible to open. The sliding doors

also need the proper installation as they are often installed incorrectly.

- Window air conditioning units give an easy point of entry if they are not securely mounted to the frame. Easy points of entry make you a target.
- Don't hide a spare key! If you must have an extra key, give it to a trusted neighbor or family member. If you have lost your keys, have the locks changed.
- Require vendors to show proof of identification; uniforms are not enough. Make sure you know who the callers are before you allow them into your home and never admit that you are alone.
- Keep your shades and blinds down, particularly at night.
- If there is an emergency and someone wishes to use your phone, get the phone number and make the call for them.
- Get to know your neighbors and your surroundings. Be aware of who is in your community and report any strange behavior. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee wants to hear from you !

The Midtown Brandywine Neighbors Association announces that we are recruiting new members. There is no better way to get to feel a part of such a great neighborhood than by being a member of the board of the association. There are a variety of committees which are looking for neighbor support.

If you would like to self nominate, or nominate a neighbor, please do so. Please provide us with your name, address, phone number & email address and drop it in the mail box of either Joel Stango at 1407 N. West Street, or Faith McNamara at 1213 N. West Street. You can also phone Joel at 655-8003 or Faith at 545-8207. Make this the year that you get involved or involved again! All nominations will be contacted.

Businesses We Like & Recommend

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.

Welcome Committee

Welcome to the Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood! We hope 2008 will be a prosperous, happy and safe year for you.

Here are some tips about the neighborhood:

Trash Day

Monday: Recyclable non biologicals (plastics, glass, cardboard, paper; etc.) go in a special container that you order, it's free! You can go online to RecycleBank.com or call 888-727-2978, there are 2 sizes.

Thursday: Everything in your own personal waste container (put your address on it, the lid too!)

NOTE: Don't leave a mess (i.e. boxes, packing materials and other discarded items) outside your new home. You will receive a ticket for trash in front of the house. 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 front 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 and 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!

Don't leave anything in your car overnight.

Unfortunately the temptation to steal is too great for some people to resist. Don't give them that choice!

The News Journal www.delawareonline.com

What's Your Doggy Doo Doing?

When pet waste is left on the ground, rainwater can wash it into storm drains or directly into streams and



rivers, contaminating drinking water sources. Scientists from the U.S.

Geological Survey estimate that pet waste contributes 20 to 30 percent of the water pollution in America. Excessive nutrients

from animal waste contributes harmful bacteria, promotes excessive plant growth and causes algae blooms, all of which rob the water of vital oxygen when plant materials decay.

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary can provide you with more information 1-800-445-4835 or <http://www.delawareestuary.org>.

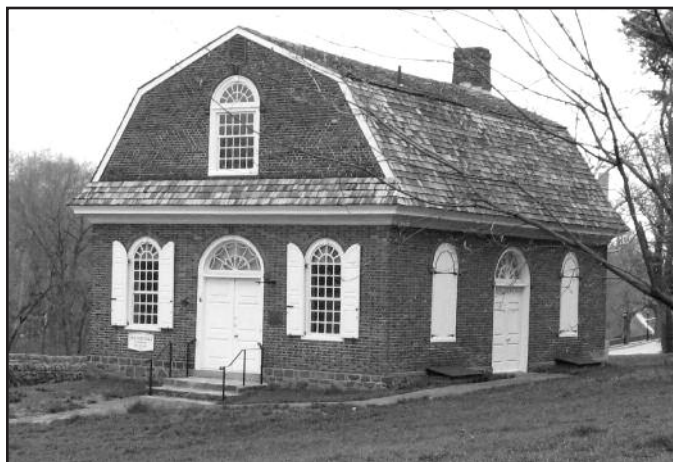
What can you do?

Stormwater runoff pollution is the leading threat to water quality in the Delaware Estuary. This occurs whenever rainwater and melted snow flows across impermeable surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks and streets. Rather than naturally soaking into the ground, this stormwater picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants on its way into sewers. This polluted water is then discharged as untreated runoff into the waterways we use for swimming, fishing, drinking water and more. Below are a few simple things that you can do to help combat this life-threatening form of contamination:

- Put litter in its place: off the streets & into trash cans.
- Only rain should go down storm drains, never use them as garbage cans or waste dumps.
- Service your car regularly to keep engine fluids off the street and out of storm drains.

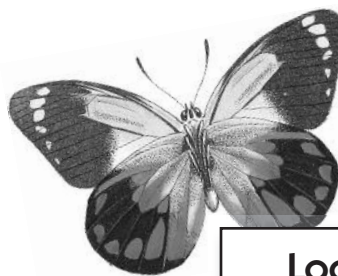
- Choose water-based paints.
- Bag or compost leaves to keep them from washing into storm drains and waterways.
- Minimize the use of toxic substances and substitute organic products whenever possible.
- Dispose of dog waste by bagging it and then flushing it down the toilet.
- Recycle! Doing so reduces refuse in landfills.
- Tell a friend that everything we do on land affects water quality. Everyone can make a difference!

— Information from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary



The Old First Presbyterian Church

The church originally stood on the east side of Market Street in Wilmington, between 9th and 10th Streets. In 1916 the building was moved to its present site on West Street and Park Drive. It not only was the first Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware (1740) and used for worship until 1840, it was also used by the British troops as a prison and hospital during the occupation of Wilmington after the battle of the Brandywine, September 12, 1777. Architecturally it is a fine example of the prevailing style of church architecture of that day. Only a few buildings of that date remain today and in good condition. It is permanently situated on city park land, and maintained by a non-profit patriotic society.



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

Newsletter contact: Rita Berry 388-7420
Photos by Allen Maples & Kathy Kunkel