

# Midtown Brandywine

A quarterly publication of the Midtown  
Brandywine Neighbors Association

# Matters

**Spring 2009**

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[www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/mbna](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/mbna)

## Mark Your Calendar !

Gibraltar Gardens Courtyard Sale ..... 5/8 & 9/09 ..... Corner of Delaware Ave. & Greenhill Ave.  
Midtown Brandywiners 3-Day Fundraiser ..... 6/21/09 ..... Gibraltar Gardens

### Progressive Dinner 2009

The Progressive Dinner is Midtown Brandywine's largest fundraiser. We thank all those who participated this year. As you can see from the pictures, we had a great time. If you did not make it, we hope to see you next year.

We would like to give a special thanks to those who took part in making this event happen:

Bob Goff & Joel Stango  
Scott Cawood & Christopher  
Bramfitt  
Faith & Eric McNamara  
Lynn Doto & Bill Montgomery  
Pati Nash  
Doug McLaughlin  
Adele Blanchard  
Cindy Ramsey  
Susan & Jim Mosely  
Roland Roth & Nomi Steen  
Aimie Baker  
Lauren Collins  
Jessica Reed

Glenn & Trish Kocher  
Carol & Sandy Woolworth  
Ken Tattersall  
Carlos Monterera-Hicks & Adolide  
Wallace  
Rita Berry  
Liz Freeman  
Jason Lay  
*and*  
all those we may have  
forgotten.



## CRIME – TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE

Wilmington Police: 654-5151

Neighbors,

Please be advised that we are seeing increased criminal activity in the downtown area- house/car break-ins and assaults. Please be sure to remove anything of value from your cars AND remove chargers, cell phones, GPS units, etc. The assaults in our area have happened at all times of the day, so be aware of your surroundings and avoid low visibility areas. In addition, please be sure to leave outdoor lights on at night for safety.

If you see ANYTHING suspicious, please use the Wilmington PD hotline. I have heard that if you call 911 on your cell, the call goes to the State Police and we've had mixed success getting that concern forwarded to the WPD. The WPD number we should call is **302-654-5151**.

Over the last few weeks, I have been on the phone with WPD to talk about other concerns in the neighborhood and the officer ran a check and came back with 5 complaints registered since 2007- prioritization by the WPD starts with us... we need to log concerns/complaints to be noticed. Stay safe.

- Dan Walsh, 516-909-1987



## Spotlight on the Neighbors!

Hi Neighbors!

I'd like to introduce you to Gwen Anderson. She is the owner of Anderson Travel Services, Inc, a home based travel agency located in our neighborhood. After retiring from DuPont, taking travel classes at Delaware Technical & Community College and working at 2 other travel agencies for over 10 years, Gwen opened her own agency. She has been in the business for a total of 15 years. Gwen arranges trips for large (in one case, 80 people) or small groups. In some cases she travels with her groups.

Gwen's agency provides full services which are (but not limited to) land packages, cruises, fundraisers, Destination Weddings & Honeymoons, Broadway plays and day trips. Gwen's personal passion is for groups. But she has had to make adjustments in the type of group trips she promotes due to this struggling economy. For example: day trips to New York City, plays in Philadelphia and dinner theatre in Baltimore are appealing to her diverse client base.

You may think with the convenience of the internet, why would you need a travel agent? Well consider this; an agent has expertise and industry connections. Many tour operators

do not provide services to the general public. When they have a specific special or promotions only your travel agent has access to this information. Knowing where her clients desire to travel allows Gwen to keep an eye out for fabulous deals on places that you would never find on the internet.

No one is immune to flight delays, hotel complications and last minute questions. Gwen offers the personal touch of making herself available to her clients during their trips, even at 3 AM. This personal touch allows the client to feel comfortable and secure during their trips. Gwen is sincere in her concern for her client's well being while on vacation. When you book a trip with Gwen, her services do not end when she hands you your tickets and itinerary. You don't get that from the internet!

Starting May 13th Gwen will be a vendor at the Rodney Square Farmer's Market between 10 AM and 2 PM. If you are in the area stop by and meet her. She will have all her travel destination documentation and brochures available for you to take.

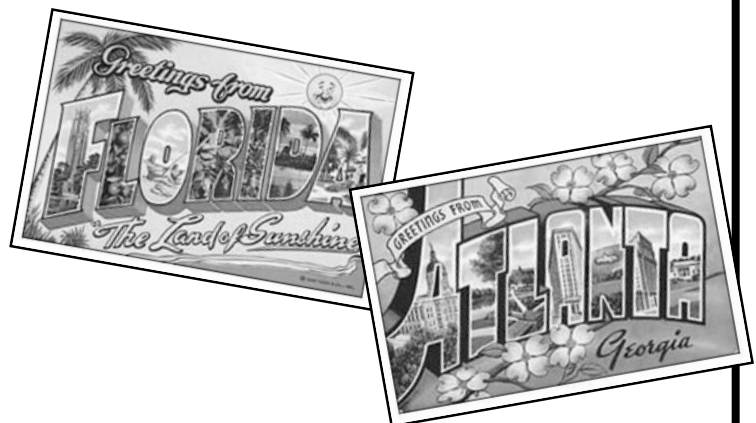
If you have access to the internet go to Gwen's website at: [AndersonTravelServices.4mydeals.com](http://AndersonTravelServices.4mydeals.com).

While doing this interview with Gwen, she shared with me some packages she already has made up. They are: Aida in Baltimore, MD; 7 Nights "The Pride" cruise leaving Baltimore, MD; The Lion King in Philly; A Cruise to Nowhere (that sounds interesting!) leaving out of NYC, scheduled for this November; The Super Cruise III, (you mean we missed I and II?). This is a Jazz Cruise Vacation leaving from Baltimore, MD in October. A few of the artist's are: David Sanborn, Joe Sample and Patti Austin. Wow Gwen! And there is a 12 Day Northern European Cruise scheduled for 2010.

So if you are looking for a travel agent, thinking of getting away or wishing you could get away but not sure you can afford it, you don't have to look any further than right here in the neighborhood! Check Gwen out! Her enthusiasm and caring nature are evident in your first conversation with her. Gwen's logo is: "Without a travel agent, you are on your own!"

Well neighbors, that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

- DeAnna Cardenas



## Gibraltar Gardens

Courtyard Sale (it's a treasure sale), May 8th & 9th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the corner of Delaware Ave. and Greenhill.

Our neighbor, Connie Ripper is a volunteer at Gibraltar Gardens. The garden is a small paradise in our city. If you can't make the sale, please stop by any time to see the gardens and the pond. It's a wonderful place to sit and reflect, or perhaps procrastinate.

In the early 1990s, Gibraltar faced an uncertain future following the death of H.R. Sharp, Jr. With its rich history, exquisite gardens, and association with an important Delaware family as well as a nationally renowned landscape architect, Gibraltar was a perfect candidate for restoration. In 1995, Preservation Delaware began working with the Sharp family while beginning the search for funds to acquire the property. PDI was directed to the Delaware Open Space Council, which received an appropriation each year to protect natural, scenic, and cultural properties. However, no other property in the city of Wilmington had been protected by the Open Space Council's program and they originally shied away from the property.



Countless community members and preservation advocates showed their support for preserving the important piece of Delaware history. After a year of negotiations, the Delaware Open Space Council purchased the devel-

opment rights from the Sharp estate, thus protecting the house and gardens from imminent demolition. Encouraged by the strong show of support from the community and the government, the Sharp family then donated the property to Preservation Delaware. A preservation easement was placed with the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that Gibraltar would be restored and maintained to the highest standards. In 1998, Gibraltar was placed on the National Register for Historic Places. With the buildings and grounds secured, PDI is working with a hotel management firm to reuse the building.

## Midtown Brandywine Walkers

This year, The Midtown Brandywiners will be participating in a very special event called the Breast Cancer 3-Day. We will walk 60 miles over the course of three days with thousands of other women and men. The net proceeds will support breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment through Susan G. Komen for the Cure and the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund.

We have agreed to raise at least \$2,300.00 each in donations. So we need your help. Would you please consider making a donation? Keep in mind how far we are walking - and how hard we will have to train. You can donate online at <http://www.the3day.org/>. and search for "Midtown Brandywiners."

Would you like to join our team? You can go to the web site



listed above for the initial information. Should you decide to join, you can do that on the above web site. If you do not have a computer, please give Rita Berry a call at 302-388-7420 and she will help you. We are planning a fund raiser on June 21st at the Gibraltar Garden. Watch for flyers.

- *Connie, DeAnna, & Rita*  
(current walkers)

**Midtown Brandywiners**  
**We are walking 60 miles over**  
**three days because EVERYONE**  
**DESERVES A LIFETIME.**

## Rock "n" Roll Marathon

Dear Family and Friends,

Every five minutes someone in the United States learns that they have leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma. Although survival rates for people stricken with blood related cancers have dramatically improved over the past 30 years as a result of the research funded by the Society, more help is needed.

That is why I ask for your support as I train to complete the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon on May 31, 2009 in San Diego, California. Team In Training is an endurance training program for runners, walkers, cyclists and triathletes. Team members train in honor of a leukemia or lymphoma patient while raising funds to support The Society's programs of research and patient services.



While this organization is usually set up to help runners train for their first marathon, I wanted to do this since the money goes directly to this excellent cause. When I get up early on Saturday mornings to train, my extra inspiration will be my good friend and patient hero, Patrick Savini. Patrick was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma in December of 2008. After completing six cycles of chemotherapy, he will need to have a bone marrow transplant. His optimism and great attitude through all of this has inspired me to help. The picture is of myself and Patrick.

My goal, in addition to crossing the finish line, is to raise \$4,700 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. I'm hoping you will be able to help me reach my goal. Your donation will not only help save the lives of those afflicted with blood-related cancers, but make their lives more comfortable and manageable while they are fighting - and beating - the disease.

Please send any donations, made payable to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, directly to me at the address listed below. Or you could make an on-line donation at my website <http://pages.teamintraining.org/de/rnr09/cjameslbzs>



Remember, all donations to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society are 100% tax deductible. On behalf of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the entire Team In Training organization, thank you for your support.

- *Christopher James, 1303 West Street*



## 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](mailto:midtownbrandywine@gmail.com)

### Committee Chairs:

Communications: Rita Berry 388-7420  
Spring/Fall Clean Ups: Travis Crumley 222-3984  
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

## Vacant Properties & Land Use Committee

Neighbors can view vacant properties on  
[www.ci.wilmington.de.us/vacantproperties/properties.htm](http://www.ci.wilmington.de.us/vacantproperties/properties.htm)

If you think a property is vacant or looks derelict contact the city. A \$50 ticket can be issued. Please make sure you receive a tracker # for your inquiry. Contacts for the program are:  
Cynthia Ferguson at 302-576-3030  
[cferguson@ci.wilmington.de.us](mailto:cferguson@ci.wilmington.de.us)

Greg Solomon at 302-576-3043  
[gsoloman@ci.wilmington.de.us](mailto:gsoloman@ci.wilmington.de.us)

Remember this! The squeaky wheel gets greased first. The people residing in the neighborhood need to report vacancies.

### Current Midtown Brandywine Properties Listed:

Property: 1219 West Street  
Owner: FL 1219 West Street LLC, PO Box 249, Wilmington, DE 19899-0249  
Property: 1316 West Street  
Owner: Nurse Deryck, 297 Liborio Drive, Middletown, DE 19709  
Property: 109 Winchester Place  
Owner: Simperts Delbert L Jr & Blanc, 2614 Creekway Cl, Missouri City, TX 77459

## Communications Committee

Our newsletter publishes events in the neighborhood and downtown area which are happening in the current quarter. Our Web site calendar lists events going on throughout the year. We also post past newsletters and "Businesses We Like & Recommend" as well as link Web sites that are relevant to our community. Your suggestions are welcome. If you know of an upcoming event that you would like to share with your neighbors please let us know about it so that we can pass it on. You can also go to the web site and post it yourself.

## A Final Note on Doggy Doo

We often run an article regarding doggy droppings. This will be the last article we will print on this matter. Our neighborhood has very few offenders. Unfortunately, the few offenders we have do not see themselves as offenders. I think these articles only serve to annoy those who pick up after their dogs. I am adding this little tidbit because many people have

approached me to ask me to print something on this matter. I personally do not have a problem with dogs because my front yard is cement. However, I see my neighbors picking it up daily, my friend's newly planted flower bed was destroyed by a dog as the owner watched on, and our tiny parks smell in the summer. So my advice (not that you asked for it) is when you see an offender, don't glare at them from afar, approach them and give them a piece of your mind. Be GENTLE, we don't want any "doggy wars" in the neighborhood.

- *Communications Chairperson, Rita Berry*

## Businesses We Like & Recommend

**Kristen Scully:** [kscully77@msn.com](mailto:kscully77@msn.com)

Add Some Color to Your Life - It's April! Spring has arrived. Spring means to me opening the house, deep cleaning and fresh colors! A quick way to freshen/recreate any room is with new colors and patterns. If you are anything like me - I get an idea in my head and then can't find it. A couple years ago, I began enlisting my sewing friends to help me create my designs with curtains, duvets, pillow covers, etc. I simply purchase the fabric of my choosing, tell them my vision and they get to work! I have been more than pleased with everything and what makes it better is that it is one of a kind -- kind of like me. If you have a desire to refresh your home decor for spring or need someone for alterations, drop Kristen an email. I am confident you won't be disappointed.

- *Lauren Collins*

### Boyd's Flower Connection

[www.boydsflowerconnection.com](http://www.boydsflowerconnection.com)...at checkout you can choose a local church, school or non-profit and Boyds will contribute \$2 -- no cost to the consumer!

**DelCollo Electric** 994-3400

**Ed Simon**, electrician 438-3795

### New York City Drycleaners

1212 Market Street  
10% off dry cleaning on Saturday and Monday drop offs  
Saturday hours are 8:30 am to 1 pm

If you would like to recommend a company or individual please contact Rita Berry. For a complete list of past businesses and referral source please visit our Web site.

#### Newsletter Contact:

Rita Berry at 388-7420 or [ritaberry333@hotmail.com](mailto:ritaberry333@hotmail.com)  
Midtown Brandywine Neighborhood general email:  
[midtownbrandywine@gmail.com](mailto:midtownbrandywine@gmail.com)  
If you do not have a computer and would like past information please give Rita a call.

**Look for our next Quarterly issue  
coming in July 2009**