

Brandywine Hills Gazette

Volume 24, Issue One

January 2020

Ask Your Neighbors

What do you think about sharing our questions, our answers and recommendations in the newsletter? Examples:

Is there a **book group** in the neighborhood? Are there folks out there interested in participating in one?

How about **bridge**? Is there a group playing bridge? There is an opportunity thru Osher Life Long Learning Institution on Fridays. Other options? Is there someone who wants to start one?

Painters? A resident asked about recommendations for painters recently:

- Preston Smith Painting 302.559.4317
- Martin Jodko 302.367.4789
- Vernon Wyatt Professional Painting 302.736.6860
- Pro-Touch Painting Company 302.792.9795
- Advanced Home Finishes 302.234.3312
- Ayala Painting 302.652.1170
- R.J. Peoples 302.984.2017

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General Meeting January 23 @ 7:00 P.M. **Meeting at New Community Church** **201 Hawthorne, just past Marlowe**

Please join us for our quarterly meeting of the Brandywine Hills Community Association.

- ♦ Rmnda Chapman, a representative of the 2020 Census, will speak to us about the importance of the census, its potential impact on our city and state, and opportunities to support collection of census data.
- ♦ Steve Washington, a candidate for Delaware State Senator will speak to us about his candidacy.
- ♦ A representative of the police department will be present to answer questions and address concerns.



The membership form for 2020 is inserted in this newsletter. If you want to be a member of the BHCA, please send in your dues as soon as possible before you set the form aside and can't remember where it is! Better yet pay through PayPal. It is fast and easy. Being a member allows you to vote. Funds help pay for publications, maintaining the medians on Washington Blvd., the picnic & other social events, liability insurance, etc. A strong association can make a positive difference.

BHCA Executive Committee

Linda Gray, President, 764-8634
John Rago, Vice Pres., 571-1152
Jonathan Neumark, Treasurer
Melrose Robinson, Secretary
Linda George, Assistant Secretary

BHCA Board Members

Steve Anzulewicz
Nnamdi Chukwuocha
Martha Narvaez
Fritz Petit

We're on the Web and FaceBook!

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/brandywinehills/>
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/brandywinehills/>

Hate to Say Goodbye

The picture below is from the neighborhood picnic in 2017. In the picture are BHCA members Harold and Linda Gray, Steve Anzulewicz, John Rago, Linda George, and the one on the left in the grey



sweater is Diana Hoopes. She has been the treasurer for BHCA and Diana and her husband Kerry Hoopes have been devoted residents of Brandywine Hills and members of BHCA for many years. Kerry is pictured helping out at the picnic. He has

always been supportive and around to help with the heavy lifting. Diana is giving up her role as treasurer as Diana and Kerry will be moving out of the community to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Diana was kind enough to share their story with us.

"We moved here in the summer of 1979 with one small child in tow. My husband had become a City of Wilmington firefighter and we needed to live in the city as a condition of his employment. We were always city residents though and thrilled to find a home in a great area of Wilmington. I had grown up in Wilmington's Little Italy neighborhood while Kerry grew up around PS DuPont school.

Kerry was a city firefighter for 35 years and also part owner of Hoopes Fire Equipment Co. and later Phoenix Fire Equipment that served to provide fire suppression services and equipment to companies, businesses, and restaurants. I worked as a pediatric physical therapist at the John G. Leach school (retired 2013) as well as at the Mary Campbell Center (retired in 2019).

Over the years we went on to have 4 children who are now all married with families of their

own. Three of them have settled in the Washington DC area, not far from each other, and one lives in Ohio. Our family has grown quite large over the years. We now have 11 grandchildren and one more on the way. Nine of these children live with their parents in the DC area.

The decision to move was not an easy one but as our children left the nest, as the grandchildren came along, and as we grew older, it became important to us to be physically closer to our family. We love visiting with all of them and love being involved with all the grandchildren so it only made sense for us to move somewhere near them. As a result we have made the decision to sell our home and move to the Cathedral Heights neighborhood of Washington DC sometime in late spring/early summer.

We have always been members of the Brandywine Hills Civic Association since 1979 and appreciated the efforts of many members who have worked to keep our neighborhood strong. I became the Treasurer in 2008 and have enjoyed helping out in this small way. We have met so many wonderful people from our neighborhood over the years and will miss the strong sense of community that was always present here.



Moving away from the place we have called home for almost 41 years will be difficult but we are excited to begin this new chapter and adventure in our lives with our family close by. We are forever grateful for the years we have spent in our Brandywine Hills home, for being able to raise our four children here, and for the many wonderful friendships made."

Diana and Kerry Hoopes

Improvements Coming to Miller Road

On 11/06/19, a meeting was held at PS DuPont School library with representatives of DelDOT to talk about changes to be made to Miller Road. DelDOT representatives explained that this is a 2-year project they plan to condense into a period of 14 months. The hoped for start time is August or September of 2020. The funding for the project becomes available in July 2020. Funding is 80% federal and 20% state. They hope to complete the project by December 2021. A major construction project begins on I-95

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Brandywine Hills Tidbits

Representative **Nnamdi Chukwuocha** and Councilwoman **Linda Gray** held a meeting on December 10 with Deldot and Dart and a dozen or so residents from throughout the Brandywine Hills community. They provided the community with the historical context for the **new Route 14 bus route**, as well as the justification and outline for the planned changes. The new Route 14 will travel along Lea Boulevard hourly during the day and every half hour during rush hour traffic.

New bus pads are being installed along the route to adhere to ADA compliance. An example of a bus pad is located at the Monroe and Lea intersection near the bridge. This is how all the pads will look with a pad that connects to the sidewalk for greater wheelchair access.

Representative Chukwuocha and several neighbors who expressed concerns regarding bus pads on their property met separately to discuss issues. DelDOT and Dart Representatives were very helpful and agreed to find an alternative placement for the bus pad originally planned for the corner of Lea and Washington.

A special thanks to neighbor, Ann Warner, who, in support of the project and the community benefit the new route brings, offered to have the contested bus pad placed near her property. Dart and DelDOT are reviewing the proposal and have made a site visit and temporary marking for the bus pad's installation.

The new route 14 began operation on December 15. The new bus pads will be added when all of the necessary ADA work is completed.

If anyone has questions or concerns they can reach out to Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha.

Nnamdi.Chukwuocha@Delaware.gov

The **Welcome to Brandywine Hills Committee**, composed of **Ellen Casson, Linda George, Linette Carroll and Marti Yates** met recently to review ways to meet and greet new residents of the neighborhood. The goal is to integrate newcomers into the community as quickly as possible so they feel a part of the neighborhood. When the committee is made aware of a new resident, our goal will be to have someone from the committee contact them to set up a good time to stop by, introduce themselves and leave a

welcome packet of helpful phone numbers, local vendors, city information and a baked treat like a fresh loaf of bread. Hopefully, the outreach will be welcome and the neighborhood will become that much more cohesive.

The committee welcomes suggestions and/or volunteers to help out. Feel free to contact Marti Yates (martiyates@gmail.com) or Ellen Casson (ellen4000@cs.com) with any questions or suggestions. Anyone who has a local business, or knows of one that would like to advertise by offering coupons that can be included in the welcome packets please contact someone from the committee.

Another topic discussed was finding a way to bring the neighborhood together socially more often simply on an impromptu basis. Some residents have sponsored "pop-up" get-togethers and the Committee would like to see that practice continue and multiply. In the past, people have simply offered their home as a meeting place with everyone bringing their own drinks and a snack. It has been suggested that notice of any future get-togethers be circulated by email through Ellen Casson in addition to Facebook because some folks aren't on Facebook. Ideally everyone in the neighborhood can get to know one another through these social opportunities and everyone can be kept informed of local happenings this way.

The committee would love to have new members and new ideas for how to have fun as a neighborhood. Please help out with suggestions!

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Improvements Coming to Miller Road

in the spring of 2021 that will last two years. They want to finish Miller Road as soon as possible, in light of the resources needed and the traffic disruption that will occur from the 95 work. The engineering model used for Miller Rd focuses on congestion reduction, air quality improvement, improved walkability & biking access. The road will be reduced from 4 lanes to 2 10-foot lanes in each direction. Bike lanes will be on each side and sidewalks the length of Miller Road, from Lea Boulevard to 32nd Street. There will be a turn lane for right and left turns into the business areas.



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Advertising space can be purchased by organizations, businesses, and contractors recommended by residents, for \$100 for a full page ad, \$50 for a half page, and \$25 for a business card size.

Ads requested by neighborhood children, lost and found, or announcements about neighborhood activities are included at no cost.

Wilmington's Beautiful City Campaign

As reported by Holly Quinn with *Technically Delaware*, Wilmington residents received a new high tech feature in January, as the new **SMART** trash bins arrived on curbs across the city nearly two months earlier than projected.

For the most part, nothing will change. As part of Wilmington's Beautiful City Campaign, the SMART bins will simply replace your old trash bins and will be picked up weekly as per the pickup schedule. But if you regularly have overflow in your trash bin (e.g: an extra trash bag on top of the bin), that's something you'll have to manage, because the 65-gallon bin is meant to be the maximum you can put out: Bags outside of the bin will be picked up, but are discouraged. The City will also not pick up trash in non-issued bins.

Part of the cap on garbage per residence is to encourage recycling. Wilmington has long had a citywide weekly recycling pickup program with bins issued to residents. Some residents don't use the recycling bins or do not recycle to the maximum level, resulting in more trash that includes recyclables.

But what, exactly, makes a SMART bin smart?

The new bins are embedded with high-frequency GPS chips that collect data on each bin, such as the location, real-time collection tracking and even if a bin has been tipped over. The City's Sanitation Division will use **Cart Vision Software** to keep track of the data, which the city plans to share on its website as a real-time map that residents can access.

In a press release, the Commissioner of Public Works, Kelly Williams, said that Cart Vision Software also allows for the Sanitation Department to manage work orders of all cans citywide and maintains real-time inventories of assigned assets. The City will also be able to locate any reported missing or stolen cans using GPS.

Residents may choose to keep their old bins to use as storage (or, even better, convert it into a compost bin), but they may no longer be used for trash pick-up. **Eco Plastic Products of Delaware**, a nonprofit recycling facility in Wilmington, will take some of the disposed old trash bins. Smart sanitation is one of several "smart city" upgrades that Wilmington has committed to in the past few years.

