

Brandywine Hills Gazette

Volume 25: Issue One

January 2021

Have Questions About 3rd Party Energy Suppliers?

Some tips and experiences from neighbors.

* There's no "good or bad".

DE has bifurcated system.

Delmarva Power's role is simply as a deliverer of power to customers. Customers have the opportunity to price shop, or policy shop among registered suppliers in the State.

* 3rd party suppliers offer customers the ability to acquire the fuel component of their energy. They are brokers who purchase energy, and so can 'sometimes' deliver modest savings on the fuel component of one's bill. A 3rd party supplier will have no impact on costs for the meter, transmission, distribution, or other fixed charges on one's energy bill.

* Not all marketers are trying to scam customers. BEST way to work around scam concerns is to request the marketer send info to you in the mail.

* Contact **Delaware Public Advocate** re concerns at (302) 577-5077 or 888.607.2427 or public.advocate@delaware.gov

Inside this issue:

BHCA President's Message	2
Congratulations Linda Gray	2
Neighborhood Tidbits	3
Advertisements	4
Natural Habitat Initiative	4

BHCA General Meeting Online January 28 @ 7:00 P.M.

Join our quarterly meeting via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 469-848-0107, 351456565# United States, Dallas

Phone Conference ID: 351 456 565#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Happy New Year to Brandywine Hills residents from your neighborhood association officers and board members. We are looking forward to a better year. Perhaps the virus will be under control enough by September so we can resume the annual Brandywine Hills Community Picnic. In fact, that would be a grand way for us to break free and celebrate the lifting of the virus restrictions. We'll see what happens, but in the meantime, stay safe by avoiding large crowds, wash your hands, get tested, get the vaccine and wear a mask.

The new year means it's time to renew your BHCA membership by paying the dues which total \$35.00 for the year. Your support helps to keep our community safe, clean and beautiful and supports the community picnic, community clean-up, public safety announcements and community email and social media notifications, newsletter, beautification of the medians along Washington Boulevard, the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween-related events.

Paying your dues has never been easier. Here's how to do it today:

PayPal: [Pay Dues Here](#)

Zelle: brandywinehillsde@gmail.com

Check: Make out to BHCA and mail to Jonathan Neumark at 601 East Matson Run

BHCA Executive Committee

John Rago, President, 571-1152
Jonathan Neumark, Vice Pres./Treasurer
Melrose Robinson, Secretary
Aaron Baker, Assistant Secretary

BHCA Board Members

Steve Anzulewicz
Nnamdi Chukwuocha
Fritz Petit
Rob Harris

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/wilmington-de/brandywinehills/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/brandywinehills/>
Ellen Casson, Newsletter Editor (ellenc4000@cs.com)

Greetings from the BHCA Elected Officers and Board,

On behalf of the elected officers and board members of the Brandywine Hills Community, thank you for placing your trust in us. With your guidance as neighbors and property owners, we pledge to manage our community's affairs with integrity. We have a beautiful and caring neighborhood that has been nurtured for nearly 70 years by neighbors past and present. We will uphold their efforts to preserve and improve what is one of the most attractive communities in the Wilmington area.

I am proud to serve with Vice-President/Treasurer Jonathan Neumark, Secretary Dr. Melrose Robinson, Assistant Secretary Aaron Baker and Board Members Fritz Petit, Rob Harris, Steve Anzulewicz and Nnamdi Chukwuocha, as well as the other neighborhood members who serve on other important BHCA committees.

We will keep our community clean and attractive and ensure that it remains a welcoming community for all people. We look forward to sharing our ideas with you and to hearing your thoughts as well as concerns. We will continue to take steps to keep all of us safe, informed and interested in participating with our officers and board in shaping the future of Brandywine Hills.

Thank you,
John Rago
President, BHCA

Congratulations to Councilwoman Gray

Linda Gray, the former and long-time president of BHCA was sworn in on January 5, 2021, as the 1st District Member of



Wilmington City Council. Linda was appointed to the position initially on February 28, 2019, and was then formally elected to City Council on November 3, 2020.

Linda and her husband, Harold Gray, have lived in the first district of Wilmington for over 40 years, and in Brandywine Hills for over 30 years. Linda served as president of the Brandywine Hills Association for more than 20 years. Both Linda and Harold have been very active in the community, promoting beautification, trash pickup, preservation and improvement of the Matson Run Park, the landscaping of the Washington Street Extension medians, and planning and participating in neighborhood picnics, to name just a few things. Linda also chaired the property committee and worked to

maintain the integrity of the BHCA Deed document and the natural surroundings of the neighborhood. Linda has also volunteered her time in other capacities such as working with the Brandywine Zoo, the Rockwood Foundation, and Wilmington Arts Commission.

We congratulate Linda on her official election to public office and we thank her for the many years of service to the community of Brandywine Hills and the City of Wilmington. Below is a message from Linda.

I thank the Brandywine Hills community for electing me to serve as President of our community for 20 plus years. During the years residents volunteered and supported the work of the Brandywine Hills Community Association. Many are still in the community and some have moved on. We worked, played, upheld our deed. We donated our time, expertise and money to continue to maintain our vibrant and desirable community. Thanks again for the support and I look forward to enjoying more years in Brandywine Hills.

Linda Gray

Brandywine Hills Tidbits

Remember the fun and hospitality from past neighborhood picnics! Here is a very special moment from our picnic in 2013. Our neighbor, **Ruth Siegel**, is pictured. Ruth



turned 100 years old on November 26, 2020! It is so fitting that she is standing before a host of colorful balloons and an adorable child. Ruth has four children of her

own, ten grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. Her husband, Bernard, and Ruth and their four children moved to Brandywine Hills in the 1950s. Her husband died in 2010. Very involved in our community, but also in the wider community of Wilmington and Delaware, they both have been committed to public service, education, and helping others. Instrumental in the building of the Jewish Community Center of Wilmington, the JCC carries the Siegel name. Happy 100th Birthday, Ruth! Let's hope we are able to hold a neighborhood picnic and have you join us before your 101st birthday!



An historic moment in Delaware is the inauguration of Delaware's own Joe Biden as President of the United States. In Delaware, so many people know our new president as Joe, and many have experienced personal connections with him. Many have been touched by his empathy and heartfelt concern for others. Our neighbor, **Scotti Lee**, and his family have been touched personally by President Biden's empathy and his willingness to reach out and express his concern to strangers.

Some of you may have seen the article in the News Journal on January 5, 2021. Our neighbor, Marsha Lee (Scotti's wife), was killed tragically in December 2011. As the News Journal describes, the funeral at the Beth Emeth Temple was packed, when the family noticed Joe Biden arrive. The family did not know Joe Biden personally, but he felt compelled to express his sympathy to the family. Weeks after the funeral, Scotti Lee received a call from Vice President Biden wanting to check in on him. Scotti's daughter, Timnah Lee, said, "It was a man who lost his wife to another man who lost his wife."

On May 14, 2012 the Brandywine Hills Community Association, in conjunction with Mayor James Baker and Beau Biden, serving as Delaware's Attorney General, held a special ceremony at the corner of East Matson Run and Whittier Road, dedicating the road as Marsha Lee Way.



Don't forget the Brandywine Hills neighborhood monthly food drive. Thanks to all those who have generously donated. For those who aren't aware of what we're doing, we collect non-perishable food once a month, on the first Monday, and donate it to local food pantries, like Lutheran Ministries, Hanover Presbyterian Church, Beth Emeth, Latin American Community Center, and St. Stephen's. A reminder is sent out each month on Facebook, Nextdoor and the community email. Presently, donations can be dropped off at 400 Hawthorne Drive or you can call 480-567-4498 to have your donation picked up. Our neighbor, **Marti Yates**, is leading the effort. If you would like to volunteer to help, or contribute ideas on how to include more neighbors, please feel free to reach out to Marti at martiyates@gmail.com.

Steven Anzulewicz & Associates

Steve Anzulewicz

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BHCA

Advertising space can be purchased by organizations, businesses & 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.

**Brandywine Hills Habitat Initiative**

At a past neighborhood meeting, Lori Athey, Habitat Outreach Coordinator for the Delaware Nature Society, gave a presentation on the need to improve the habitat value of our properties, so we can be part of the long-term solution for saving our native plants, birds and insects. A small group of residents gathered together to talk about action steps, such as improving the natural habitat at the individual property level. Some individual properties have been certified as wildlife habitats, which could lead to a neighborhood certification. Brandywine Hills can be part of a long-term solution for saving our native plants, birds and insects.

An opinion piece from the National Academy of Sciences offers eight simple things that individuals can do to help save insects from global declines. The eight things to do are:

1. Convert lawns into more diverse natural habitats.
2. Grow native plants.
3. Reduce pesticide and herbicide treatments.

4. Limit use of outdoor lighting.
5. Lessen soap runoff from washing vehicles and building exteriors, and reduce use of driveway sealants and de-icing salts.
6. Increase awareness and appreciation of insects.
7. Become an ambassador and advocate for insect conservation.
8. Get involved, support science and vote.

Insects play key ecological roles. As prey, they are critical to the survival of countless other species. As herbivores, predators, and parasites, they are major determinants of the distribution and abundance of innumerable plants and animals. The majority of flowering plants depend on insects for pollination. As consumers of waste products, insects are essential to the recycling of nutrients. Humans and their agriculture rely heavily on insects.

The link to the article is below for more detail:

[National Academy of Sciences](#)