

MIDTOWN NEWS

— BRANDYWINE —

VOL. 3 NO. 3
OCTOBER 2023



I happen to like Midtown, I happen to like this hill...
And when they put me under the ground,
Don't wanna go to Heaven, don't wanna go to Hell,
I happen to like Midtown!



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Fall is filling in fast and furiously all around us. Midtown butterflies are flying south. Pumpkins, asters, mums and decorations are in the stores and will soon be throughout our neighborhood. Midtown Brandywine is a place to visit when you are in search of that autumn feeling. If you are looking for ways to enhance your gardens, take advantage of our **fall plant sale**. Our **block party on Saturday, October 14** is another way to celebrate with neighbors and friends around the neighborhood. We will have food, beverages, games and prizes and a lot of fun.

We have much more planned, so to get involved; check out our website, midtownbrandywine.org, look at the FaceBook group or reach out to me.

Thank you
Joel Stango 302-438-9834

MIDTOWN'S ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY OCTOBER 14 4-7 PM

*** Hey Everyone! ***

The Block Party is coming up Saturday October 14th 4-7pm. This is the biggest neighborhood event of the Fall season and the one we all look forward to!

After we shut down the block of 14th street between Tatnall and West, we will be setting up tables and chairs, bringing out the backyard games like cornhole, and serving up ribs -- courtesy of "Bea," another meat dish and a vegetarian dish. We've got some great raffle prizes lined up

and a family friendly playlist, or DJ, for dancing, because YES!

Everyone in the neighborhood is invited - we need you to make it a success! ***We count on you for contributing your family's favorite side dishes and desserts! Even numbered houses, please bring a side dish. Odd numbers, desserts. No need for a jumbo quantity!*** We encourage you to help our neighborhood fundraise by buying raffle tickets and silent auction items. Bring your favorite backyard games to challenge your neighbors!
- Jes Reed



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THANK YOU!!



MIDTOWN BRANDYWINE NEIGHBORS' ASSOCIATION
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COMMUNITY PARK TO BE REVITALIZED

Deconstruction has begun at the northeast corner of H. Fletcher Brown Park (HFBP) at the corner of S Park Drive, King Street, and Market Street. During Phase I of the renovation project, Delaware Natural Resources (DNREC) will be tearing down the pagoda and regrading the entire area. Bricks from the patio will be retained for reuse in future phases of the project. Midtowners who have concepts for HFBP are invited to send their ideas to Bob Blanchard at robt.i.blanchard@gmail.com. Bob is serving as community liaison with DNREC on this project and

plant of the month

ASK HER... ABOUT ASTERS!

If you asked me, I would say every gardener should make room for Asters. They are a sturdy native perennial group that blooms well into the fall, supporting pollinators when most other blooms are finished.

They aren't mini-daisies. They aren't Mums, although some hybrid Asters are sold with Mums at the groceries and hardware stores this time of year. Most of their blooms look like tiny daisies, and most Asters are white or pale blue, although there is a regional native yellow, the **Maryland Golden Aster**.

My garden in Saint Paul was shady, so I had White Wood Aster and Blue Wood Aster (Blue Wood Aster is for sun to light shade) and planted them here as well. But if you have a sunny spot, try Aromatic Aster. It features a bolder blue color, grows 1-3' tall on sturdy stems, and in trials it was less susceptible to powdery mildew and rust than the popular New England Aster. (The trials included some conducted by **Mt. Cuba**.) This just means that New England Aster should get plenty of space to avoid powdery mildew.

I found a fantastic article from Piedmont Master Gardeners that also mentions a report that the **native species attracted significantly more pollinators than cultivars such as "Purple Dome."** Also, I learned that the *all* American natives were found to be significantly different from European or Asian Asters, so they will keep their popular names but are no longer, technically, Asters.

What are they called now, technically? Don't ask.
- Natasha Poppe

This article includes more great sources:
<https://piedmontmastergardeners.org/article/asters-color-and-life-in-the-fall-garden/>

will see that your ideas get to the right person. As the future phases get closer, DNREC has committed to come to the community for a formal presentation of the project's scope.

MAYOR FORMS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION STUDY GROUP

The Mayor has established a study group headed by our neighbor, Bob Goff, City Solicitor, to draft a city-wide policy regarding charging stations in residential areas. Most of the members are members of the administration or civil service but there are three citizens who are owners of EVs on the group. If you have any interest in participating, check out the Mayor's announcements here: <https://www.wilmingtonde.gov/Home/Components/News/News/6570/225>

REMINDERS

Several Midtowners have suffered car break-ins recently, especially those owners of certain model years of Hyundai and Kia cars. The Wilmington Police Department (WPD) has free steering wheel locks available for owners of those affected cars - but supply is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

WPD reminds us all to remove all valuables when leaving our cars and always lock our cars when parking.
- Bob Blanchard,
Parking & Public Safety Committee

FIRST EVER MIDTOWN NATIVE PLANT SALE!

The Midtown Brandywine Neighbors Association Greenscape Committee has arranged with a local nursery to get a great deal on some perfect species for fall planting. These are small "plugs" that will cost \$2.50 or less, and as a group we need to order 50 of each plant minimum, thanks to **Arden** our neighbor, at northcreeknurseries.com

- New England Aster ----- Blue Wood Aster
- Common Sneezeweed (Helenium)
- Solidago (Goldenrod) "Fireworks"
- New York Ironweed ---- Joe-Pye Weed (Hollow)
- Hairawn Muhly ----- Switchgrass
- White Wood Aster ----- White Turtlehead
- Longflower Alumroot (Huchera)
- Mountain Mint ----- Zig-zag Goldenrod
- Blue Stemmed Goldenrod ----- Foam Flower
- Northern Wood Oats

ORDER ASAP to get this in time for fall planting!

Please see the Facebook post to order, or email midtownbrandywine@gmail.com