



THE ARCHWAY

Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs

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Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors

Fall 2025

FOBS Donates \$400,000 of Grant Money to NCC Parks Department



On October 1, 2025 FOBS presented \$400,000 Grant Money to NCC Parks Department. In the photo, left to right are : Cleon Cauley, Dept. of Public Works General Manager; Senator Spiros Matzavinovs; Marcus Henry, County Executive; Mark Lawlor, FOBS Vice President; and Ed Lipka, FOBS President.

(photo by Kevin Ford, Research Aide Public Works Dept.) NCC has a link the county will use to provide updates on park projects <https://www.newcastlede.gov/2553/Brandywine-Springs-Park>

FOBS Website undergoing an Upgrade

Our Website manager Christian Derr is performing enhancements to the website to modernize functions to make a more user friendly experience. Thank you Christian for your continuing efforts and making this upgrade possible. FOBS members Wendy Horn has provided payment for the GoDaddy fees and her son Jerry Horn has provided server hosting for the website for many years. Thanks to Wendy and Jerry for your continued supports and recent assistance to Christian on the upgrade.

Red Clay Day 2025 - FOBS Event

September 20, 2025 was such a picture perfect day for this event! Our team made a very good showing with our displays, information shared with the visitors, the special theatre tent for the Lost Movies of Brandywine Springs, and the volume of visitors that took tours this year. The added bonus of the Klair Family gathering to dedicated the replacement of the Frederick Klair Memorial Plaque was a very fitting activity to emphasize the historic importance of Brandywine Springs Parks' existence.



FOBS member Micheal Baroski shares park history with a visitor while other members Mark Lawlor, Klaus and Brenda Abele set up the booth. Photo by Mary Lou Lawlor



Photograph of Senator Klair in business attire with signature yellow rose boutonniere. Photo by Angela Evans



Klair Family descendants with Granddaughter Bonnie Kachmar gathered at the Beech Tree where the memorial plaque was replaced. Photo by Angela Evans



Senator Klair's memorial Plaque. Photo by Mary Lou Lawlor



FOBS members attending the October 12, 2025 meeting pose with the Grant Money Presentation Check. Standing: Ed Lipka, President; Brett Roark, Pete Seely, Don Richard, Robert Cottrill, Brenda Abele, Klaus Abele, Board member. Seated: Jeff Swift, Board member; Mark Lawlor, Vice President; Mary Lou Lawlor, Secretary; and Michael Baroski. (photo by Andy Gwiazda)

President's Letter...

On Wednesday, October 1st, a beautiful Autumn morning, The Friends of Brandywine Springs, Senator Mantzavinos, County Executive - Marcus Henry and members of the New Castle County Parks Department met to officially begin the Trails and Bridge Project in Brandywine Springs Park. This project was made financially possible by two grants from Senator Spriros Mantzavinos. This project is a result of many hours of research and meetings between NCC and FOBS. The finished project will feature upgraded trails throughout the historic park, a trail from the parking lot down to the park, and a pedestrian bridge that will span the spillway dam at the southeast corner of Lake Washington. Recently, I met with Kendall Sommers, New Castle County Parks Department Leader with the intent of developing increased communications which will allow the Friends to work more closely with the Parks Department and the maintenance team at Brandywine Springs Park. We will develop a simplified plan to keep the park well-maintained, with its many trails and especially the Amusement Park areas preserved and kept in prime shape. A regular maintenance schedule will be created and will make sure that these areas are trimmed and cleared on a regular basis. Some of the original FOBS signage will be upgraded or replaced to help the park visitors understand and appreciate the rich history of the park. Now, we await the Trail & Bridge Improvement Plan to begin and the initial groundbreaking to take place. We (FOBS) will be working closely with the New Castle County Parks Department as the project unfolds and takes shape. The finished product and completion of the project will benefit NCC Parks and the Friends of Brandywine Springs, and especially the visitors to our beloved park.

Sincerely,
Ed Lipka

Welcome New Members - Judy Menzel, Bill Reynolds and Brett Roark!!

This & That...Elections of Officers and Board Members will take place at our December 7th meeting followed by our annual Holiday Party... FOBS will be holding public outreach events in the coming year...Please consider helping staff the information booth to tell about the history of the park and our group...Questions, comments, ideas, Please contact Mary Lou Lawlor email : mlawlor@verizon.net or 302-994-8929.

The New Castle County has a system in place for the public to report and submit a request for maintenance in any NCC park. Requests may be submitted by email parksrequest@newcastlede.gov or calling park maintenance at 302-395-5720 there's also a free app My-NCC.

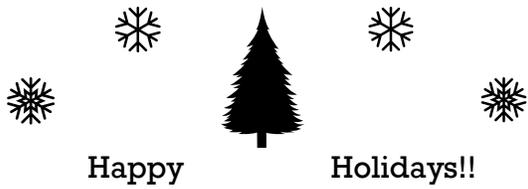
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