



# THE ARCHWAY

Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs

Vol. 28 No.4

Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors

Fall/Winter 2021

## State Grant for Trail Improvements

by Mark Lawlor

State Senator Spiros Mantzavinos (District 7) has obtained a grant for the Friends of Brandywine Springs group as part of the 2022 Bond and Capital Improvements Act (Senate Bill 200, passed in June) for the Community Redevelopment/Reinvestment Fund. Our Friends group has been awarded \$150,000 for Walking Trail Improvements in Brandywine Springs Park. This all started when Sen. Mantzavinos was having a community meeting at the park on Saturday morning, June 12, and happened to run into our dig team in the parking lot. He came to our meeting the next night and was impressed with the amount of work we were doing for the park. He liked our energy and ideas and decided to help us with our mission of preserving the parks' history. We want to thank Senator Spiros Mantzavinos very sincerely for his substantial boost of our efforts.

With this being our first grant, our group has to organize some financial reports, and get properly registered with the state to be qualified to accept the money. Our present thoughts for the use of the grant is to install a 6 or 8 foot wide gravel walking trail around the lake, and nicer gravel trails from the lake to the entrance archway, keeping close to the base of the north hill. Other ideas are for more benches, trail upgrade along the center of the boardwalk trail, or improvements to the "Lake Overlook Trail" for better access from above. We will meet with county park officials soon to find out how to proceed, and how to work together with outside contractors.

## Joe was here!

Joe Biden, the President of the United States, stopped by our "Friends" booth at the Brandywine Arts Festival on Sept. 14, 1996, when he was Delaware's U.S. Senator. On that day, Senator Biden stated that his parents lived 6 houses from the park (across Faulkland Road), and that he used to hike in our park. In 1970 and '71, the New Castle County Councilman for Brandywine Springs Park was Joseph R. Biden Jr.



From left to right are **Kathy O'Connell**, **Joe Biden**, **Sunny Gauger**, **Mark Lawlor**, **Don Gauger**, and **Sandi Ciosek**. Photo by Beau Biden, with Sunny's camera.



On October 16, 2021 FOBS held their annual picnic in the Rudy Williams Pavilion.

From left to right **Steve Franklin, Diane Franklin, Sarah Dougherty, Mary Lou Lawlor, Sandi Ciosek, Bob D'Onofrio, Mike Ciosek, Ed Lipka, Richard Gillis, and Mark Lawlor**

### 2022 Meeting Dates

held at the Cedars Methodist Church  
Maple & Harrison Avenues  
7:00pm

March 13, April 10, May 1, June 12, July 10,  
August 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 4

### Back to Nature...

**A Green Heron  
visited Lake  
Washington in  
August 2021.**



### Welcome New Members

**The Harrison Family  
Jennifer, Joshua,  
Conner, and Chance**

**Donald Lenderman**

**John Cronin**

### Trail Team

Thanks to **Klaus Abele** and **John Cronin** for help moving large tree parts across the Pool Hall bridge, giving the County access with their machines.

Thanks to **Don Richard** for help in sign building, and brush clearing on the hill over the lake.

Thanks to **J.D. Hughes** for weed whacking and trail cleaning.



President **Ed Lipka** presented **Mike Ciosek** and **Sandi Ciosek** with Certificates of Appreciation for their many years of service and lifetime honorary memberships.

Photo by **Angela Evans**

Thanks to **Julie Ardis** for many years as webmaster, retiring this year.  
Welcome to new webmaster **Christian Derr**. We look forward to working with you!



## Transit measurements at Lake Washington



**Mike Ciosek** uses his transit to help determine heights of the footers at the lake...assisted by **Mark Lawlor** in August of 2021. Photos by **Angela Evans**



Photo by **Brenda Abele**

## Lake Footers

Nine of the ten footers for the "Dance Hall on the Lake" needed to be restored before they disappear forever under the water. Mark built wood forms with the help from J.D. Hughes, and Mark and Klaus Abele used 39 eighty pound bags of concrete to fill the 9 forms so that the footers will appear one inch tall in the full lake. The tops were angled on purpose to allow turtle access.

Photo to the left: **Mark Lawlor** and **Klaus Abele** mixing concrete for the footers.

The Newcastle County Historic Review Board will discuss the repairs of the Lake Washington dam in a public zoom meeting on Dec. 21, 2021. Check the next newsletter for updates.

Photo to the right: The "Dance Hall on the Lake" with the finished footers.

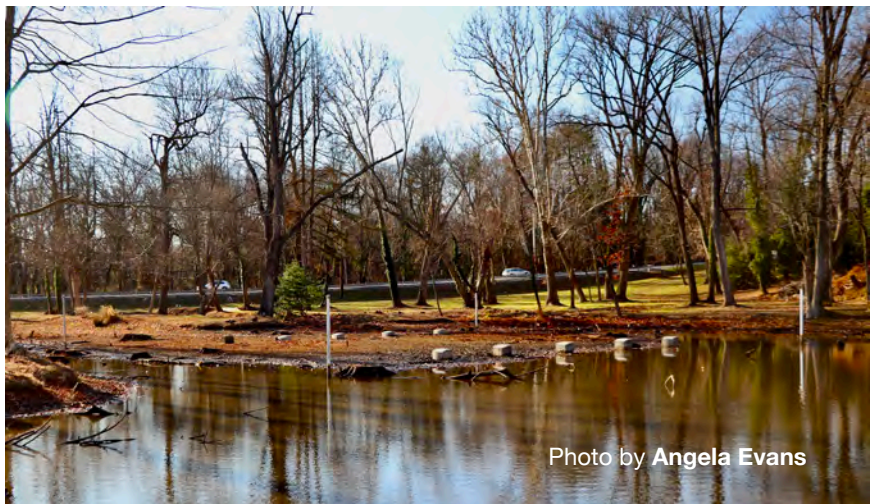


Photo by **Angela Evans**



## New Signs Installed

On November 6, 2021 our crew installed 5 signs in 3 hours!!

New signs include:

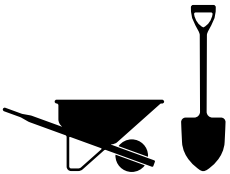
Council Oak, Pool Hall, Carousel, Martins German Kitchen and Kiamensi Spring.



From left : **Ed Lipka, Chance, Josh, Connor,** and **Jennifer Harrison** prepare to install the Council Oak sign.  
Photo by **Mark Lawlor**

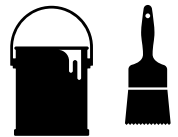


From left: **Ed Lipka, Josh, Connor,** and **Chance Harrison** install the Carousel sign.  
Photo by **Mark Lawlor**



**Volunteers make a difference in the park...**

contact Mark Lawlor  
email : [mllawlor@verizon.net](mailto:mllawlor@verizon.net)



The pool hall bridge was repainted in the summer of 2021 by **Mark Lawlor**.  
Photo by a pregnant women walking by.



**Mark Lawlor** built a footpad at the bench near the carousel.  
Photo by **Mark Lawlor**



## FOBS Remembers Larry Anderson

Larry Anderson has painted numerous paintings of the old amusement park over the last 20 years, including the whole park print in the inside cover of Mark's book, along with paintings of Lake Washington, the Entrance Archway, the second hotel, and many train paintings. Larry was known for his generosity and he gave sales proceeds to FOBS for the Amusement Park print and the Entrance Archway print. Larry lost his fight with cancer on November 21, 2021 at the age of 66. His many paintings of Wilmington scenes will ensure that his name is remembered for many years.



An egret spreads its wings on Lake Washington, August 2021.

Photo by **Angela Evans**

Thanks to **Bonnie Ardis** for serving on the Board of Directors (retiring Dec. 2021), and welcome to new board member, **Klaus Abele!!**



Elsie Fell, in the center wearing the striped hat, July 26, 1888. Photo from the Fell Family Collection

Thanks to **Jonathan Hunt** of San Francisco for providing some "new" photos of his Great-Grandmother Elsie Fell, taken along the boardwalk in the photo studio. Her father, William Jenks Fell, leased the park to Richard Crook. Also, coming soon is Elsie Fells' journals, from the 1880s, when she was a teenager.



**Johnathan Hunt** gave **Mark Lawlor** a 1888 newspaper print about the Delaware Guard encampment at Brandywine Springs, from Elsie Fells journal book. Mark donated it to the group and it was archivally framed for our museum.

Photos by **Mark Lawlor**

## This & That...

The elections for 2022 were held at the December meeting the results are posted below, Thanks to **Sarah Dougherty** for updating our Facebook page!, **Don Richard** is looking for additional ideas and volunteers for the 2023 Centennial Celebration that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the closing of the park, Volunteers are needed to staff the visitor center. If you would like to help please contact **Mary Simons mhsimons21@comcast.net**



**Angela Evans** created two new cross stitch designs. One of the Entrance Archway and one of the Katzenjammer Castle. She will be donating a finished cross stitch of each to the museum.

**Wishing you and  
your family a  
Happy Holiday & a  
safe & prosperous  
New Year from the  
Friends of  
Brandywine  
Springs!**



**Friends of Brandywine Springs**  
**P.O. Box 5323, Wilmington, De. 19808**  
**President: Ed Lipka**  
**Vice President: Mark Lawlor**  
**Secretary: Mary Lou Lawlor**  
**Secretarial Assistant: Angela Evans**  
**Treasurer: Diane Franklin**

### Board of Directors

**Bob D'Onofrio**  
**Scott Palmer**  
**Klaus Abele**

**Sarah Dougherty**  
**Richard Gillis**

**Website: [www.fobsde.org](http://www.fobsde.org)**

**\*2022 Membership renewal form enclosed\***

**FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE SPRINGS**  
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