

# MIDTOWN NEWS

— BRANDYWINE —

VOL. 3 NO. 2  
SEPTEMBER 2023



Just trippin' down the cobblestones [ouch] Lookin for fun[ds] and feelin' groovy...  
Hello Lampost, whatcha knowin'? Are you City or DelMarva glowin'?  
Hope you'll have some flags for me...Midtown I love you, All is groovy!



## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

I cannot believe that it's already back to school season. The Freire students are about to be hurrying down our streets to make it to class on time. Our neighborhood association is also quickly pulling together the **Midtown Annual Yard Sale (September 9)** and our **Block Party (October 14)** and a couple of movie nights are being planned for the West Street Pocket Park.

Our **September 12th** board meeting will begin at 6:30 in the Little Church and we will have a **guest speaker Jim Tevebaugh** to discuss the history and restoration of the Washington Street Memorial Bridge. There is a lot going on around Midtown Brandywine. Please join us if you can at any or all of our events.

*Thank you!* Joel Stango  
302-438-9834

## EVERYTHING MATTERS. COMMUNITY POLICING AND ENGAGEMENT IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE.

### An interview with Wilmington Chief of Police Wilfredo Campos.

In a wide-ranging discussion in early August 2023, Wilmington's new Chief of Police, **Wilfredo Campos** and **Master Corporal Anthony Easterling** (who is responsible for the area of Wilmington that includes Midtown Brandywine) sat down with *Midtown Brandywine News* to talk about the Chief's vision for

*This issue proudly sponsored by:*

VISIT US IN THE HEART OF **WILMINGTON!**



305 Torbert Street  
torbertsocial.com

SCAN ME



FOR MORE INFO



1212 Washington Street  
mikimotos.com

**WASHINGTON STREET ALE HOUSE**

1206 Washington Street • wsalehouse.com

Wilmington policing and current conditions across Delaware's largest city.

**Chief Campos**, selected as the 33rd Chief of Police, joined the Wilmington Police Department 26 years ago and has pursued a remarkable career of service to his communities. He is the department's first Hispanic chief.

**Master Corporal Easterling** graduated from the same police academy year as Chief Campos, and the two officers have closely collaborated for the public good over more than two decades.

This interview was conducted by **Bob Blanchard**, chair of the Midtown Brandywine Neighbors' Association public safety committee, and **Simon Cousins**, chair of the Association's communications committee and editor of *Midtown Brandywine News*.

*continued*



MIDTOWN BRANDYWINE NEIGHBORS' ASSOCIATION  
midtownbrandywine.org • Delaware's Loveliest Neighborhood

*continued from page 1*

## **Chief Campos' journey from a Wilmington West Side childhood to the city's chief of police**

**Chief of Police Wilfredo Campos:** "I was born in Puerto Rico, and we moved here to Wilmington when I was eight. My mother, my brother, my sister, and I settled on the city's west side, on 6th and Broom. I went to William C. Lewis Elementary School – that was when kids were able to walk to school and you knew the whole neighborhood would watch you. From there I went to H.B. Dupont Middle School, then Stanton Middle School and I finally graduated from Thomas McKean High School. After high school I joined the Army Reserves and trained in Oklahoma for boot camp and Missouri for my other training. Then I came back to Wilmington knowing I'd go into some type of law enforcement. I knew police officers growing up, and I'd always respected and looked up to the police. So, I was pretty clear about my preferred career path once I'd joined the military and learned the value of discipline and structure.

"So, when I returned home, the police department wasn't hiring yet, so due to my military training for heavy equipment operation and transportation, I worked for DART for two years. Eventually the Wilmington police department opened a hiring opportunity. I applied, was hired, and joined the 84th Police Academy in 1996 with this man here, Anthony Easterling."

**Master Corporal Anthony Easterling:** "Not only did we graduate the 84th academy together, but we sat next to each other!"

**Chief Campos:** [Laughs] "Anthony was our class president and as you probably know, Anthony was a U.S. Marine and served overseas in the '80s. After graduation I worked my way up through the ranks, starting in uniformed services, like everyone does, doing patrol work. From there I went to community policing and was a bike officer on the west side, then I went to detectives for about nine years, investigating everything from burglaries, robberies and thefts, and then eventually homicides. When there was an opening in the ATF task force, I applied for that and worked in ATF for a little more than a year. I got to learn the federal side of law enforcement and crime, especially around trafficking and possession of firearms.

"From ATF I moved over to the human resources

division, and I had an opportunity to be one of the instructors in the police academy. I got promoted there and ran police academies, hiring processes, recruitment, and training for about five or six years. I was promoted and went to back to uniform services, then back to the police academy as a sergeant, then was promoted again from the police academy to lieutenant in uniform services and then about a year later, in 2017, I was promoted to captain under chief [Robert] Tracy, in charge of sector three for five and a half years."

## **Community engagement in Midtown Brandywine**

**Anthony Easterling:** "The number one thing that I love about Midtown Brandywine is the community chili cook-off! Everybody participates, everybody has a say. But we've been through some storms together, even before the pandemic. Over the years, we've worked in the true partnership with our fellow citizens, and we have leveraged that partnership to raise the level of public safety and law enforcement. Together, we're reducing the fears and incidences of crime."

**Chief Campos:** "The main thing that we're seeing now is there's a TikTok video out there that shows kids how to steal Kias and Hyundais with a USB cord. So, a lot of Kias are being broken into because some kids are trying to learn how to do it, but they're breaking the window and the ignition, and then that's as far as it gets. But there are also kids who have learned the technique.

"As a response to the Kia and Hyundai risk we have a program that they will give you 'The Club,' a physical security device, free of charge. If you live in Wilmington and you show up with a Kia or Hyundai we'll give you a free Club. So far we've I think we've given away more than 300."

**Anthony Easterling:** "When I first started working here in Midtown Brandywine, the problem was that everybody left everything in their cars, so we had way too many vehicle break-ins. Some residents of the time were saying the police weren't doing their jobs. So, I printed up a card which I'd put on the broken-into cars, saying the reason your car was...



You've only read 23% of this story so far.  
Read the whole story by scanning the  
QR code with your phone, or visit  
<https://midtownbrandywine.org/community-policing-and-engagement-in-wilmington-delaware>

# MIDTOWN GARDENER LEE ARMSTRONG

*Editor's note: please enjoy the first of our regular Gardener of the Month articles, profiling local gardeners in Midtown Brandywine.*

Lee Armstrong bought her house on Tatnall Street, Midtown Brandywine, in March of 2023. Although originally from Sussex County, she had been living in California for 42 years and enjoyed gardening with native plants there. Moving back to Delaware, she realized she wanted to continue gardening with the same principles, but she needed to learn all about what kinds of plants are native to Delaware.

She turned to the **Mount Cuba Center**, a local organization dedicated to the conservation of native plants. She took classes there in 'Native Plants', 'Native Plants for Containers', and 'Garden Planning with Native Plants.' These classes helped her select new plants for her yard. She weeded out her front garden of all the non-native plants. In the backyard garden she was lucky to find a native hydrangea, a viburnum and rhododendron. She decided to keep some exotic specimens like a lovely Japanese Maple.



Using the Mount Cuba recommendations, she planted a new garden with echinacea, black-eyed Susan, swamp milkweed, native ferns, heuchera, phlox, and false indigo. She's looking forward to watching it grow in upcoming years as it evolves and reveals successes and failures in these small spaces.

Lee is eyeing some unplanted areas in the neighborhood for places to sneak in even more native plants.

She loves that the native plants bring the birds she loves to watch such as hummingbirds and gold finches as well as lady bugs and butterflies.

Lee believes that beauty isn't just in a flower, but in how the flower supports life around it.

*Author: Jessica Reed, chair, Midtown Brandywine Neighbors' Association*



Read the story with many helpful links by scanning the QR code with your phone, or visit <https://midtownbrandywine.org/gardener-of-the-month-august-2023-lee-armstrong>

## EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

### MIDTOWN EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 9:** Neighborhood yard sale! Think about what you have that buyers would love! An old table, some frames, kids' things.....

**OCTOBER 14:** Neighborhood Block Party! The best Saturday around! We need help with contributions to the Raffle/Silent auction, food, ticket sales and "staff" during the event, etc. We all chip in and we all enjoy!!

Contact Joel Stango 302-438-9834 to find out how to help.

Follow (and add your own) events in and around the neighborhood in the Midtown Brandywine Community Calendar: <https://midtownbrandywine.org/calendar/>

### LOCAL EVENTS

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2:** Hopper, An American Love Story, 4 pm  
Cat Videos 6 pm at Theatre N

**SEPTEMBER 9-10:** Brandywine Festival of The Arts

**SEPTEMBER 16:** Delaware AIDS Walk, 9 am, Zoo.

**SEPTEMBER 17-24:** Black Restaurant Week

**SEPTEMBER 18:** "No Limits" with Master P, 6 pm, Wilmington Public Library

**SEPTEMBER 21:** 5 pm Sip & Stroll at the Brandywine Zoo



# PLANT OF THE MONTH: GOLDENROD

By *Kathy Kunkel*

This colorful perennial, goldenrod, will add beauty to your garden as well as attract beneficial insects.

Looks can be deceiving so don't worry, goldenrod is not ragweed, so it won't aggravate your allergies. It adds not only a splash of color for your late season garden, but it also attracts bees and butterflies, pollinators that we want to encourage. These native perennials prefer full sun and are drought-tolerant. The sunnier the location, the more blooms you'll see, and they will still bloom in shady areas. There are several varieties, but most are North American natives. They tend to get tall and floppy, pinching them back early in the season helps to keep them looking bushier, and they can also be divided.

I got mine at one of the Native plant sales at least 15 years ago and it's still healthy and blooming.

For more information: <https://www.thespruce.com/goldenrod-wildflowers-2132951>

## REMINDER:

There is no trash pick-up on Monday September 4, for Labor Day. The pick-up will be on Tuesday.

## IMPORTANT INFO

Police Non-Emergency:  
(302) 654-5151

Report a concern or request a service (roads, lights, etc):  
311

Michelle Harlee, 4th District Council Member  
(302) 519-5974  
[mhharlee@wilmingtonde.gov](mailto:mhharlee@wilmingtonde.gov)  
<https://www.wilmingtoncitycouncil.com/council-members/michelle-harlee/>

Stephanie Bolden, State Representative (RD2)  
(302) 744-4351  
[StephanieT.Bolden@delaware.gov](mailto:StephanieT.Bolden@delaware.gov)  
<https://legis.delaware.gov/AssemblyMember/150/Bolden>  
<https://stephanietbolden.wixsite.com/stephanieb>

Sarah McBride, State Senator (SD1)  
(302) 744-4147  
[Sarah.McBride@delaware.gov](mailto:Sarah.McBride@delaware.gov)  
<https://legis.delaware.gov/AssemblyMember/151/SMcBride>  
<https://www.sarahmcbride.com/>

---

## MIDTOWN NEIGHBORS' ASSOCIATION BOARD

Jordan Barret • Bob Blanchard  
Simon Cousins • Jason Hoover  
Jeff Mazzella, Treasurer • Nancy McGrath  
Rhea Phillips • Natasha Poppe, Secretary  
Jessica Reed, Vice President  
Robert (Bobby) Ries • John Stafford  
Joel Stango, President • Michael Yingling

*Midtown News:* Editor, Simon Cousins  
Design/Production:  
Natasha Poppe

---



**THANK YOU** to Union Press Printing for their in-kind support. Get your competitive printing quotes from [quotes@unionpress.com](mailto:quotes@unionpress.com) or (302) 652-0496.