



# THE ARCHWAY

*Newsletter of the Friends of Brandywine Springs*

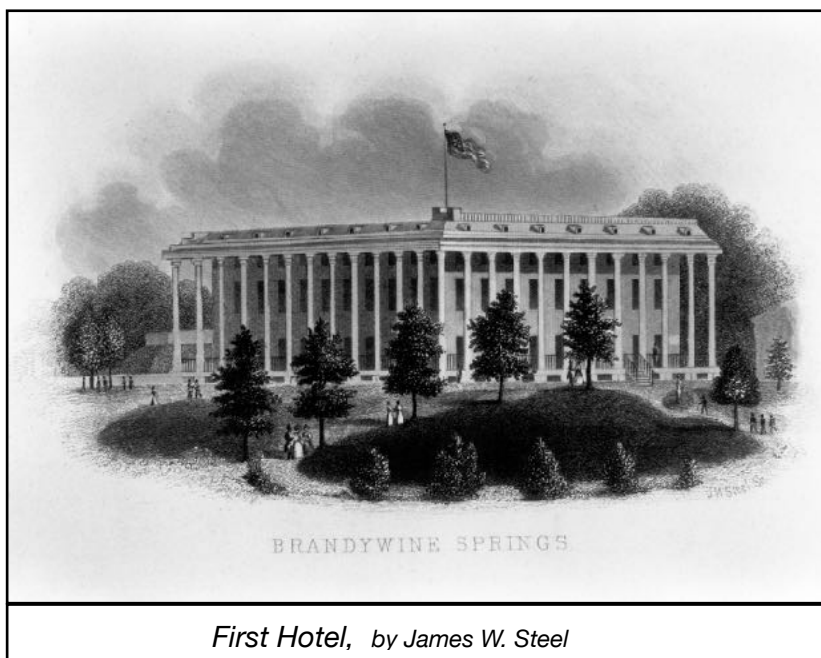
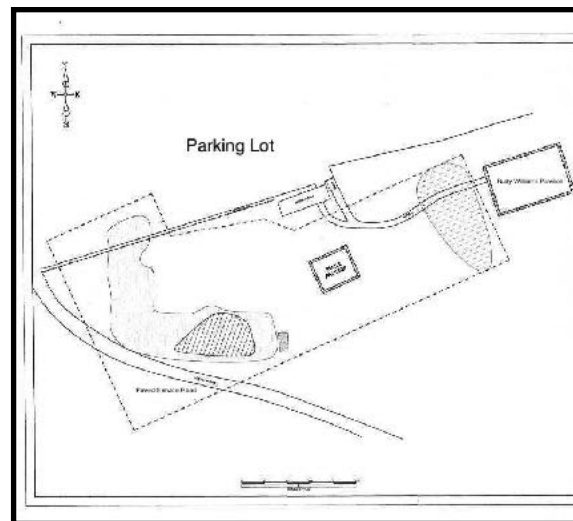
*Vol. 29. No. 3. Mary Lou Lawlor & Angela Evans, Editors. Fall/ Winter 2022*

## Ground Penetrating Radar Study finds First Hotel

**By Mark Lawlor**

On Thursday, November 3, 2022, Jay Graf of Geo-Graf, Inc., of West Chester, PA., did Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to look for the first (1830-1853) Brandywine Springs Hotel. Back in the mid 1990s, his father Fred Graf helped us find the second hotel (1860-1920s), under the present day basketball court. Mark, Mary Lou, and Angela Evans had set out a grid pattern the night before. We found not perfect walls, but a large “L” shaped ground disturbance right where Gene Castellano’s studies had predicted. The disturbed ground zone seems to be about 30 feet wide.

The first Hotel was a four story tall “L” shaped building with the two front facades facing west and south. The Location- To find the bottom, east end of the “L”, go to the smaller pavilion that is about halfway down the south side of the parking lot. Once in that pavilion, go to the south-west corner. Walk 40 feet west and you will “enter the building”. Keep walking west till you barely cross the paved service road that heads toward the old red pavilion site. The front corner is there. To find the north end, or top of the “L”, start at the map sign near the playground. Counting parking spaces from the map sign, the hotel remains are under the 6th, 7th, and 8th parking spaces



*First Hotel, by James W. Steel*

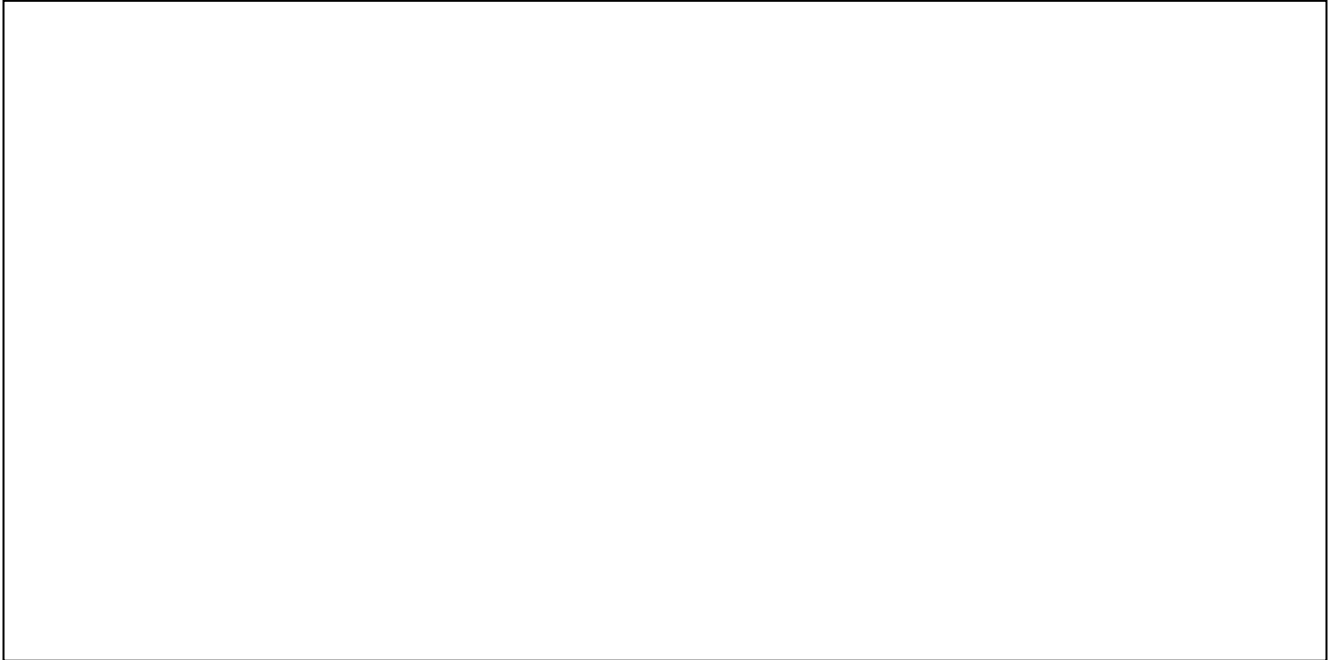
to the east, but does not extend north into the driving lane near those spaces.

Another “car sized” anomaly was found near the front of the hotel, at the east end, under what would have been the “front porch” - this may be an old cistern or well or privy.

Our Friends group does not plan to mark the hotel site immediately, but we will know where it is later.

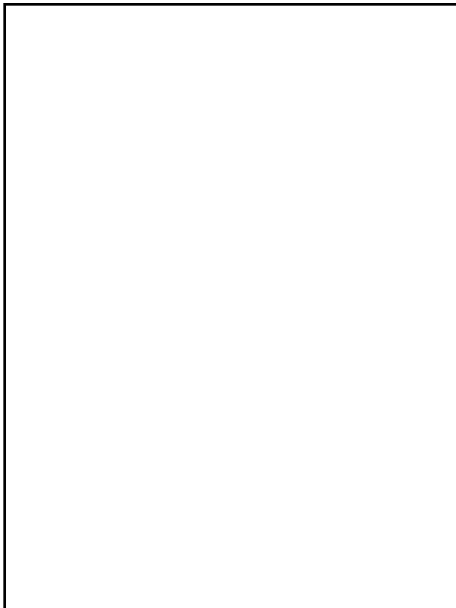


Jay Graf walking his GPR unit across the grid in search of the hotel. Photo by Angela Evans

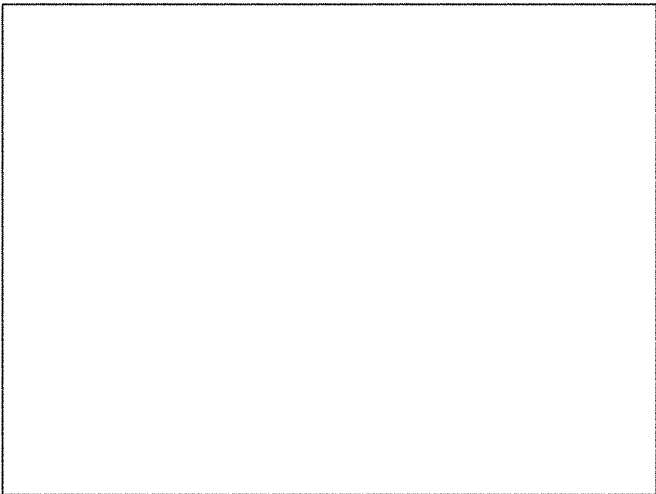


The FOBS held their annual picnic on Saturday October 15, 2022. Left to right...Mark Lawlor, Mary Lou Lawlor, Diane Franklin, Steve Franklin, Hiya Swanhuysen, Johnathon Hunt, David Doody, Ed Lipka, Abby White, Bob D'Onofrio, Angela Evans, Brenda Abele, and Klaus Abele. Photo by Jim Evans

2023 Anniversary of the park closing Special Event — September 16, 2023 is the date! A team of park tour guides portraying notable park era personalities is being formed. It would be nice to have at least one female guide to round out this team. Contact Don Richard 302 463 5488, [donjrichard@aol.com](mailto:donjrichard@aol.com). Wanna help in a different way? Contact Don... we need a number of volunteers to make this event a success!



Mark Lawlor stands next to the Larry Anderson "Point of View" amusement park print installed along the Council Oak Trail. This print allows the viewer to identify the locations of the amusements in the landscape below.  
Photo by Angela Evans



Klaus Abele and Mark Lawlor install the Toboggan Slide Rollercoaster sign. Photo by Angela Evans

Welcome New Member  
L. Herbert



In Memoriam  
Elizabeth J. "Betty" Tull  
November 1, 2022

**FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE SPRINGS  
2023 MEETING DATES**

March 12.	July 9	November 12
April 2	August 13	December 3
May 7	September 10	
June 11	October 8	

**7:00 p.m., The Cedars Methodist Church  
Maple & Harrison Avenues**

**Back to Nature...**



**An Egret on one of the Dance Hall footers on the Lake.**  
Photo by Angela Evans

**From the President's Desk....**

Dear Friends (of Brandywine Springs),

It's that time of year when we are focusing on the Holidays! This means getting together with family, friends and loved ones. Those of us that are fortunate to have traditions and culture to add to the season's festivities, really cherish this time of year, as we continue to migrate back to the level of normalcy that we knew prior to Covid, we are really looking forward to the Holiday Season.

As we take some time to look back and reflect on the highlights and events of 2022, we find ourselves asking that common question, "Where did this year go?" We, as members of the Friends of Brandywine Springs, are asking ourselves that same question! We are extremely grateful for the accomplishments of this year. We are very thankful for the efforts of Senator Spiros Mantzavinos and the Historic Bond Bill Grant money - we received an additional \$300,000 for Fiscal Year 2023 that will enable our group to work with the New Castle County Parks Department, in making improvements at Brandywine Springs Park. We continue to work with the County in developing the plans to make that happen.

On Monday, December 5th at 7:00 PM, the New Castle County Department of Public Works hosted a Public Meeting to collect input from the community in helping the County to put together a master plan for the future of the park. Many ideas were discussed ranging from trail improvements, re-forestation and native species plantings, educational enhancements and improved safety for all who visit and enjoy one of the most historic parks in NCC.

The Friends of Brandywine Springs are grateful for the support of our neighbors, the community and those who especially want to help preserve the rich history of the park and continue the preservation we (FOBS) began almost 30 years ago, so that future generations can come and enjoy what Brandywine Springs Park has to offer.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Ed Lipka, President  
Friends of Brandywine Springs

**A Special Thank you to  
Diane Franklin our Treasurer for the  
past 29 years!  
We appreciate your dedication !**

**Election of Officers and Board Members for 2023**

**President**

Ed Lipka

**Vice President**

Mark Lawlor

**Secretary**

Mary Lou Lawlor

**Treasurer**

Angela Evans

**Board of Directors**

Klaus Abele

Bob D'Onofrio

Sarah Dougherty

Richard Gillis

David Doody

***This & That...*** Mark Lawlor represented FOBS at a press conference held by Senator Spiros Mantzavinos at the Rudy Williams Pavilion...Wilmington Western Railroad's Christmas train has had a very busy season... Thank you to Ed Lipka for hosting the visitor center and training a new host...Thank you to our trail team for maintaining the park trails...Christian Derr our webmaster has several plans to improve and upgrade the FOBS website...Our annual Christmas Party was held at our December meeting it was nice to share holiday cheer with everyone!! Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year!!

**Friends of Brandywine Springs**  
**P.O. Box 5323 Wilmington, DE. 19808-0323**

President : Ed Lipka  
Vice President : Mark Lawlor  
Secretary : Mary Lou Lawlor  
Treasurer : Angela Evans

**Board of Directors**  
Bob D'Onofrio      Sarah Dougherty  
Richard Gillis      Klaus Abele  
David Doody

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



**2023 Membership Renewal Form Enclosed**

**FRIENDS OF BRANDYWINE SPRINGS**  
**P. O. BOX 5323**  
**WILMINGTON, DE. 19808-0323**

