



Hello Summer!

Sandy Brae Newsletter

Summer 2025

Hello Neighbors!

Summer has arrived in Sandy Brae, and there's plenty to share as we kick off the season!

First, a quick recap of our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 14. While we received a solid number of proxies and had a strong turnout, we unfortunately fell just two votes short of reaching a quorum. Nonetheless, this is a positive sign that our community is becoming more engaged and open to change. Thank you to all who participated!

Greg Bennet, former Chief of the Lewes Fire Company, delivered a highly informative presentation on fire safety, especially relevant to communities like ours that don't have hydrants. Everyone walked away with valuable knowledge and practical safety tips.

We also heard from Kathy Davison, Chair of both the Green Thumb and Election Committees, who provided updates on the condition of our common areas and the status of the board's volunteer efforts.

We're pleased to announce some exciting board updates:

- Joseph Abernathy of Holly Drive will be joining the HOA Board this July.
- After serving as Board Emeritus, Kathy Davison will return as a new director.
- Helena Hannah, Secretary, is also returning after a brief leave.

We look forward to the experience and energy Joseph, Kathy, and Helena bring to the board.

At the same time, we extend our gratitude to Jessica Harrison, our Treasurer, who is stepping down to pursue an exciting career opportunity. Congratulations, Jessica, we're all cheering you on in this new chapter!

Looking ahead, Sandy Brae will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2026! Many of you shared ideas during the meeting, and we're excited to explore ways to mark this milestone with the entire community. Stay tuned for more this fall.

As you continue reading this newsletter, you'll find reminders about some Covenants that increase during the summer months, such as RVs, parking, boats, and bonfires. Please take a moment to review these guidelines to help avoid any misunderstandings. As always, open communication with the Board is encouraged—we're here to help.

Wishing you a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer in Sandy Brae!

Sincerely,

Martin McDonnell, President SBHOA



Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our

Website: www.SandyBraeHOA.com | Email: SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com

Martin McDonnell, President | John Kelly, Vice President | Jessica Harrison, Treasurer
Helena Hannah, Secretary | Lisa George, Director | Nancy Hecker, Honorary Board Emeritus,
Kathy Davidson, Board Emeritus | Print Coast 2 Coast, Newsletter Designer



Community Safety Reminder



As many of you know, there were a few break-ins in our community over the winter. It’s a reminder that home security should always be a priority—especially if you’re away for an extended time.

Here are a few simple but effective tips:

- Use good exterior lighting** – Motion lights can be a great deterrent.
- Install a camera system** – Devices like Ring help monitor your home from anywhere.
- Tell a trusted friend or neighbor** – Ask them to keep an eye out for anything unusual.

Let’s look out for one another and keep our community safe.

DeIDOT Planning Updates – Your Voice Matters

DeIDOT has been and will continue to be active in our area with proposed changes that could affect residents. At a meeting on April 16, 2025, we learned that the section of road from Cedar Lane to Plantation East is expected to lose approximately 12 feet, including a sidewalk and potentially a bike lane. At another meeting on May 21, 2025, DeIDOT presented a proposed bike path that could directly impact a property on Beech and affect Sandy Brea residents nearby. This plan is currently in the “idea” phase. DeIDOT is actively seeking public feedback before moving forward or considering alternatives. Make your voice heard! Email your comments and concerns to: sr1bikewaystudy@publicinput.com



Let’s stay informed and engaged as plans develop.

Make Your Home Easy to Find – Day or Night



Did you know that house numbers in our community aren’t in a logical order? This can make it difficult for emergency vehicles and delivery drivers to find your home—especially after dark.

Reminder: Our HOA Covenant requires your five-digit house number to be clearly visible.

A Simple Solution: For a \$30 donation, the Lewes Fire Company will custom-make a green, vertical reflective house number sign for your mailbox. To order, just email: sevans@lewesfire.com

Let’s keep our neighborhood safe, visible, and easy to find!

Stay Connected

Board meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month and will be held via Zoom. Please submit any questions or concerns you would like to discuss in advance. If you would like to attend, please email us, and we will send you a Zoom invitation to join the meeting. Stay in the loop—follow us on Facebook and check out our website often. News, updates and answers to your questions are just a click away. **Stay connected!**



Website: <https://www.sandybraehoa.com>

Email: SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1616804505275582/>

Community Happenings!

Cup r' Cone

We are happy to welcome Vince and crew from Cup' r' Cone back to Sandy Brae! He will return to the corner of Dogwood and Mulberry Lanes on the remaining dates and times.

July 13th - 7:30 – 8:15 pm and July 28th - 7:30 - 8:30 pm

August 11th-7:30 - 8:30 pm and August 25th - 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Spring Yard Sale Re-Cap

Despite Mother Nature's on-again, off-again rain, our Spring Yard Sale was a big success! We had an impressive 32 homes participating on Friday and 28 on Saturday—a fantastic turnout that brought neighbors together and helped us all do some spring cleaning. Thank you to everyone who set up shop, shopped around, or just stopped by to support. Your participation made the weekend such a great event! Save the Date – Fall Yard Sale Friday, **September 12th & Saturday, September 13th**. We can't wait to do it all again!

A Bright Update

We're excited to share some illuminating news from around the neighborhood! Three of our community entrance signs are now shining bright with new light fixtures. You'll notice a big improvement, better visibility, and added safety, especially during the darker evening hours. But you may have noticed that the Oak entrance is still unlit. We previously tested a solar light at that location, but unfortunately, it did not receive enough sunlight to illuminate the sign effectively. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work toward a better solution. Shout out to our Vice President, John Kelly, who took the lead in finding a reliable local contractor. Thanks to John's efforts, we got quality work at a fair price, bringing the project to light (yes, I'm owning the pun!).

Volunteer Opportunities

Two committees, The Green Thumb Committee and The Sandy Brae Turns 60 Committee, are actively seeking volunteers. To learn more about getting involved, please send us a message at sandybraehoa.lewes@gmail.com



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

The Spring Yard Sale was a huge success, and we cannot wait to see everyone at the Fall Yard Sale! Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 12th and Saturday, September 13th** from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, rain or shine.



Resident Spotlight: Arline Simpson

Celebrating Community, Courage, and Compassion

This season, we're shining a bright light on a very special resident, **Arline Simpson**, who has called Beech Drive home for 44 years. I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Arline to learn more about a chapter of her life that has made a lasting impact not only here in Sandy Brea, but far beyond.

At age 63, Arline was diagnosed with breast cancer. During her treatment, she met two wonderful women, Nancy Grim and Marilyn Gardner, who became close companions on the road to recovery. One afternoon, the three began a heartfelt conversation about gratitude over lunch. They spoke about the incredible care they received, not only from the skilled doctors and angelic nurses, but also from neighbors, friends, and family who helped with meals, laundry, and encouragement when they needed it most.

That conversation sparked something big: an idea to give back and honor the kindnesses that had helped them through. Arline, Nancy, and Marilyn founded **The Miracle Mile Walk** in 2004 with determination and heart.

What began as a modest walk on the Rehoboth Boardwalk with just a few dozen people has since grown into a cherished annual event, now sponsored by Beebe Healthcare Oncology Services. The walk raises funds for Beebe's Cancer Patient Special Needs Fund. The program provides financial assistance to cancer patients facing personal hardships who may have difficulty paying for prescriptions, co-pays, medications, living expenses, and transportation.



On May 31, 2025, at 90 years old, Arline completed the walk alongside her daughter, still showing the same commitment and joy that started it all.

For 15 years, Arline was a comforting presence at the Tunnel Cancer Center, known for her warm smile, delicious baked treats, and cherished pocket angels. The tradition began when a childhood friend gave Arline a pocket angel during a difficult time, an act of kindness that inspired her to pay it forward. Since then, she's handed out thousands, each one a small token of hope and encouragement.

Arline has since retired from volunteering and baking, but her mission continues. She still carries pocket angels, ready to share one whenever the moment feels right. Her simple gestures remind us all that kindness can go a long way.

*"The spirit of living is
in the giving."*

Arline Simpson

Summer Reminders

Looking Ahead to a Safe & Enjoyable Summer in Sandy Brae

As we welcome the sunny days ahead, here are a few important reminders to help ensure a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer for everyone in our community.

A Note on Covenants and Communication

Summer often brings increased attention to two particular Covenants—typically due to misunderstandings or avoidable issues. To help prevent conflicts and ensure a smooth season, we strongly encourage residents to communicate with the HOA in advance about anything that may impact community guidelines. Remember: when we purchased our homes, we all agreed to abide by these Covenants. As your volunteer board, we are committed to upholding them in the best interest of the community. Since most board members also work full-time, early and open communication is essential. It saves time, reduces frustration, and can even help avoid unnecessary fines.

Common Situations Worth a Heads-Up:

- “My cousin is visiting, and his RV will be in the driveway from ___ to ___.”
- “I’m doing some landscaping and have borrowed a trailer—it will be gone by ___.”
- “We’re hosting guests this weekend, and cars may temporarily park on the grass.”

A simple message to the HOA can go a long way toward avoiding issue.

Fireworks: **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

No fireworks of any kind are allowed in Sandy Brae—this has been a standing Covenant since 2008. This rule is in place to protect:

- Veterans and those with PTSD
- Infants and pets
- Your neighbors’ homes and peace of mind



Please enjoy the many professional public displays available in our area for the July 4th holiday. If you see fireworks being used in Sandy Brae, contact Troop 7 at 302-644-5020. The HOA will also follow up on any violations. Let’s celebrate responsibly and be good neighbors.

RVs, Boats, Campers & Trailers

To maintain the aesthetics and safety of our community, please adhere to the following vehicle regulations:

- Only passenger cars, vans, or pickup trucks (1 ton or less) may be parked visibly on your property.
- Vehicles must be parked on paved driveways or inside garages.
- Parking in yards, grass areas, or open spaces—even next to your driveway—is not allowed.
- Long-term or permanent parking of RVs, boats, campers, trailers, or large/commercial vehicles where they are visible from the street is prohibited.

Other prohibited activities and vehicles:

- Go-carts, unmuffled motorcycles, loud recreational vehicles
- Unlicensed vehicles
- Trucks with more than two axles, tractors, commercial vehicles

Violations may result in fines or towing. Let’s all do our part to preserve the character and safety of Sandy Brae.

Resident Readers Recommend

We're fortunate to have some very avid readers among us here in Sandy Brae. Just in time for the Summer Reading Season, two of them shared a few of their favorite books. Whether you're into history, mystery, or heartfelt fiction, there's something here to enjoy. *Happy reading!*

Patsy Greene:

The Women by Kristin Hannah

A powerful novel about the brave nurses who served in Vietnam, this story brings heart, history, and heartbreak to life. Reminiscent of *China Beach*, it highlights the courage and sacrifice of women so often left out of war stories. A must-read from one of my favorite authors.

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Set in the 16th century, this novel follows a talented young woman who writes plays in a world where women weren't allowed to. Unable to publish under her own name, she secretly sells her work to Shakespeare. A thought-provoking twist on literary history!

Carol Owci:

A Dangerous Man by Robert Crais

This fast-paced crime novel follows detective Elvis Cole and his partner Joe Pike as they get pulled into a deadly mystery after a routine bank visit turns violent. Gritty, smart, and full of suspense—classic Crais at his best.

The Old Lion by Jeff Shaara

A vivid and inspiring portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, this historical novel brings to life the courage, charisma, and complexity of one of America's most dynamic leaders.

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

Set in the 1960s, this smart and witty novel follows Elizabeth Zott, a brilliant chemist who ends up hosting a cooking show that turns into a platform for change. Sharp, funny, and empowering.

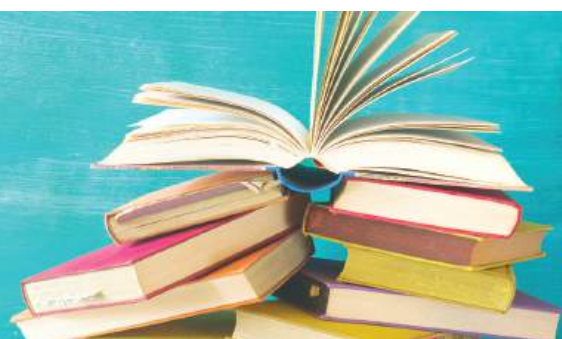
The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes

A beautiful dual-timeline novel weaving together a modern woman's discovery and a 19th-century Chinese American girl's story. Rich in history and emotion, it explores love, loss, and hidden truths.

If you have a favorite book, game, or activity you'd like to recommend for our next newsletter, please reach out! We'd love to hear your suggestions for a fun and cozy Fall edition. Email us at sandybraehoa.lewes@gmail.com Attn: Lisa

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

J.K. Rowling





MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July

- 4th** Old-Fashioned Games for Children on Second Street
9am
Followed by the Independence Day Lewes Boat Parade
2 pm
Doo-Dah Parade at “approximately” 5 pm
FIREWORKS at Dusk
- 5th** St. Peter’s Lewes 59th Annual Art Show
- 5th** Rehoboth Beach Fireworks Launch 9:30 pm
- 12th** Sun & Fun Festival Cape Henlopen HS. Noon-4pm
- 13th** Cup ‘r Cone 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Corner of Dogwood & Mulberry
- 14th** SBHOA Board Meeting 5:30 pm Open to All Residents via Zoom
- 16th-20th** Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival
- 28th** Cup ‘r Cone 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Corner of Dogwood & Mulberry

August

- 2nd & 3rd** Rehoboth Art League Outdoor Fine Art & Fine Craft Show 10-4
- 9th & 10th** Rehoboth Art League Outdoor Fine Art & Fine Craft Show 10-4
- 11th** SBHOA Board Meeting 5:30 pm Open to All Residents via Zoom
- 11th** Cup ‘r Cone 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Corner of Dogwood & Mulberry
- 23rd** Saltwater Luau Hudson Field 3:00 pm
- 25th** Cup ‘r Cone 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Corner of Dogwood & Mulberry

September

- 1st** Happy Labor Day!
- 3rd** Back to School
- 8th** SBHOA Board Meeting 5:30 pm Open to All Residents via Zoom
- 11th** Patriot Day
- 12th & 13th** Fall Yard Sale
- 20th** Delaware Seafood Fest Schellville 10-5
- 22nd** Hello Fall!
- 22nd** Rosh Hashana Begins



The Heart of Community

Lately, the word community has come up often here in Sandy Brae. While it means different things to different people, at its core, it’s about connection, care, and belonging.

Before moving here, I grew up in Philadelphia, a city known for its history and character. Despite its challenges, the neighborhoods were strong because people looked out for one another. Whether checking on elderly neighbors, sharing meals, or clearing snow-covered driveways, those small acts of kindness made a lasting impact.

My family lived on the same block for 30 years, and we welcomed various neighbors over time. Some were quirky, some brought casseroles when someone was sick, but each added something special. I’ve always loved communities with heart and personality. That’s what I found in Sandy Brae. The unique homes and welcoming residents give this neighborhood its charm.

What I value most, then and now, is knowing that someone cares. If we saw newspapers piling up on a porch, we didn’t panic; we checked in. These weren’t grand gestures, just everyday kindness rooted in the belief that we’re all connected.

Of course, life moves faster now, and individualism often takes the lead. But our need for community hasn’t gone away. A strong neighborhood doesn’t require dramatic change—it starts with simple participation. Whether it’s attending a meeting, joining a committee, or just waving hello, showing up makes a difference.

Real change doesn’t happen from the sidelines. We can’t build a stronger Sandy Brae without your voice.

So come to a meeting. Share your ideas. Or introduce yourself. We’d love to see you.

By: *Lisa George, Editor*

