

# An Invitation to Join

The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association is a nonprofit corporation that promotes partnerships with private organizations and government agencies to preserve and enhance the historic Town of Smyrna, Delaware. The Association welcomes new members.

Affordable membership entitles you to valuable benefits and assures that the Association can continue to expand its many programs and to attract additional funding. By helping to keep our historic towns livable, you also will be helping to contain urban sprawl and to protect open space. Won't you take a moment to complete the application and send your check?

## Membership Form

I would like to become a member of the Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association in the following class:

- Patron - \$100.00
- Sponsor - \$50.00
- Family - \$15.00
- Individual - \$10.00

All memberships in excess of the \$10.00 basic membership are tax deductible.

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to 'SDRA' and return with this completed form to:

Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association  
P.O. Box 163  
Smyrna, DE 19977-0163

## Member Benefits

As a member of the Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association, you will receive the following benefits:

- Copies of the Newsletter
  - A discount and advanced notice for programs, seminars and special events sponsored by the Association
  - Complimentary copies of brochures about Historic Smyrna
  - Special "members-only" events
  - Access to grants for historic home plaques, shade trees, business signs and more.
- Check our website for more information.

## Ten Reasons to Shop Locally

1. Shopping local creates jobs and the jobs created allow spending in the local economy and helps create more jobs.
2. Local independent shops invest more in our community - they support local charities, schools and community events which financially impact our community.
3. Local shops sell a wide range of great products at affordable prices and cater to the needs and wants of the community.
4. Shopping local saves you money! Travel expenses and delivery costs for larger items make the overall cost of items more.
5. Shopping local retains our community. Without the support of shopping in the local community, restaurants and services are forced to close.
6. Shop Local retains our distinctiveness: Local businesses respond quicker to the needs of the customers and stock products to meet the changing population's needs.
7. Shopping local helps reduce environmental impact. Local shops often stock more locally sourced goods saving long distance freighting.
8. Local shops can be easily reached especially for the elderly and young people and those without transportation.
9. Local shops value you more: These businesses survive by their reputation & repeat business which means you get a higher standard of service.
10. Shopping local saves services: Private and public sector services cluster around shops. As shops disappear, so do banks, restaurants & beauty salons.

You are invited to Join  
**The Smyrna  
Downtown  
Renaissance  
Association**

P.O. Box 163 | Smyrna DE 19977  
302-653-6449

website: [mydowntownsmyrna.org](http://mydowntownsmyrna.org)

# About SDRRA

The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association promotes the revitalization of Smyrna, Delaware's Historic Downtown in many ways. The Association advocates for local small businesses, sponsors downtown events, provides incentive grants to both homeowners and businesses, and partners with other organizations and agencies to preserve and enhance historic Smyrna, DE.

The Association models its initiatives after the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program® using a Four Point approach to the preservation and revitalization of Smyrna's historic business district. The Association receives no direct support from local, state or federal governments for its operations.

The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association Facade Improvement Grant Program was established to provide financial assistance for downtown business and property owners within the designated Main Street Project area making physical improvements or maintenance repairs to exterior historic facades. The grants fund street level and upper stories, or any facade visible from the street and are awarded at the Association's Annual Meeting in November each year.

The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association also offers grants for signs on businesses occupying historical buildings in Smyrna's Historic District. To qualify, applicants must be members of the Association and the sign must have the approval from the Smyrna Historic Review Board and have a permit from the Town.

The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association is dedicated to recruiting and retaining businesses as well as working with merchants in its historic business district to assure their success in this ever changing and challenging economy. If you love history and quaint historic downtowns, we invite you to join us to work on strengthening the economic and cultural vitality of historic downtown Smyrna while enhancing and preserving its historic character.



Historic "Four Corners" in downtown Smyrna circa 1900

## About Smyrna DE

In 1775 a small community named Salisbury, more popularly known as Duck Creek, was formed by farmers, merchants and shippers on the banks of Duck Creek and near the crossroads of the major north-south road, the King's Highway, and an east-west route, The Maryland Road, connecting the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays. The area was especially attractive for farming, timber and shipping due to its safe port just west of the Delaware Bay. In 1806 the village was renamed Smyrna by an act of the Delaware Assembly, after the thriving Turkish seaport of biblical times. Seventy years later, busy Smyrna, with new wharves and warehouses, was a distinguished center noted for grain, lumber and peaches.

One of the notable features about Smyrna is its historic Opera House. It was severely damaged by fire in 1948 and was restored and enlarged in 2002 by the Smyrna-Clayton Heritage Association. Today it is the last surviving second story Opera House in Delaware, is one of the few left in the United States and offers a wonderful affordable series of performing arts by local and national artists.

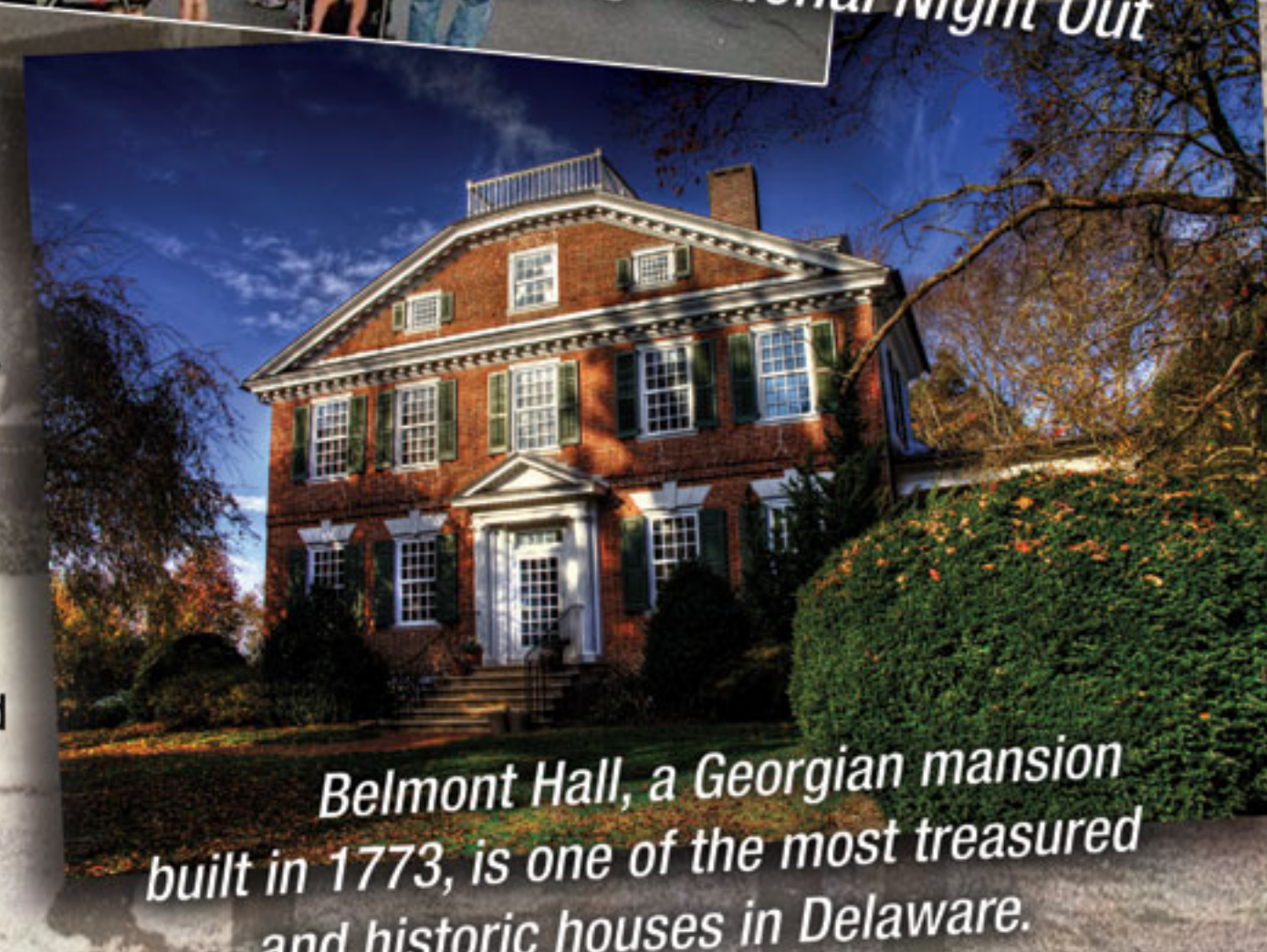
The Duck Creek Historical Society's Museums include "The Plank House," which was relocated to its current site from North Main Street and is a very early example of Delaware architecture and "The Barracks" an impressive Georgian brick structure dating from the 1790s. "The Barracks" and the "Plank House" are located at 11 South Main Street.



Historic Smyrna Opera House



Crowds enjoying National Night Out



Belmont Hall, a Georgian mansion built in 1773, is one of the most treasured and historic houses in Delaware.

Throughout its history, Smyrna residents have celebrated its wonderful architectural heritage and its historical downtown. The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association has committed itself to keeping that tradition alive for future generations!

Smyrna is a great place to live, work and play, and it just keeps getting better! In 2007 Smyrna, Delaware, was named one of the top 50 places to live in the United States by National Geographic Adventure Magazine, and in 2009 This Old House Magazine designated Smyrna among the top 50 places to buy a historic home!