Bridget Wenig: Happy to Be Here

Gates like no others

At Rabbit Run Creek, the high-end townhouse development is headed for its grand opening in May.

Dozens have watched it take shape for the past year from the vantage point of Route 202 at the entrance to the hill bridge. They have seen it rise as a gated community line an corridor.

And its gates alone are like no others.

They are the work of Raymond Mathis, a Bucks County native, who has been creating sculpture and community art for 20 years.

In Neu Home he converted an old mill into The Waterworks, more than 20 years ago. Raymond Mathis also owns a luxury yacht, and he’s been a sculptor for 30 years.

Today, his most recent success is high-rises in downtown Philadelphia—217 South Rittenhouse (“ultra chic” he calls it) and 500 Walnut St., still under construction but toped off in late May.

Scannapieco’s projects include the city’s permanent sculpture of Susan B. Anthony, and a high-rise residential sculpture (3100 Market St.)

All Rabbit Run, the two-story and three-story town homes up to 3,700 square feet per unit, each with garage, porch, and patio, and the rear of the property and private courtyard. The 37 units are four to six feet wide, for a total of 236 feet.

Mathis, like Scannapieco, was born in Philadelphia. He attended public schools and earned a master’s degree in art from Villanova in 1992.

He is largely self-taught. “I’ve always had a passion for metal working,” Mathis said.

He produces things like signs, gates and railings in the Delaware Valley for more than 20 years.

And he is the founder of The Waterworks, more than 20 years ago.

Raymond Mathis, who has been a sculptor for 20 years.

Tom Scannapieco, the developer of Rabbit Run Creek, commissioned Mathis to design the gates.

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