



ABOUT TOWN

News, events and resources for Kensington Historical Society members and friends

PO Box 453, Kensington MD 20895 September 2008

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Help for Historic District Home Owners

If you live in the Kensington Historic District (see www.TOK.MD.gov), you have the opportunity for free consulting on your home projects. All residents are encouraged to talk to planners at the Historic Preservation office in Silver Spring as you FIRST consider changes to your property. These planners are available to work with you to help make your project approvable by the Historic Preservation Commission. You can even bring your ideas to the Commission itself for a preliminary review to get their input. This will make the process easier. Remember, all exterior changes require a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP).

If you spend (in one calendar year) over \$1000 for restoration OR maintenance (paint, new roof), you can get a tax rebate the following year. Keep your receipts, take before and after pictures, apply for a HAWP if needed, and apply by April. (See www.mcparkandplanning.org/historic, or call 301-563-3400.) These tax credits are meant to support the

preservation of the entire Historic District and therefore are also available to those whose homes might not be considered historic individually.

For more help, review the guidelines in the Vision of Kensington, available in the Town office (open 8 to 4). A draft copy of guidelines applicable to the entire county is available on the Montgomery County Park and Planning website noted above.



The first Antiques Road Show was such a success, we plan on making it an annual event! Be sure to save the date - October 14, 2008 from 6-7:30 pm in the Kensington Town Hall.

Upcoming Programs

The Second Annual Antiques Road Show back by popular demand! October 14th, 6 to 7:30, in the Town Hall. Last year's Kensington Style Road Show was so popular we are bringing it back this year with improvements, including more experts to evaluate your treasures. As before, the evaluations will be followed by a panel discussion. \$10 for up to three items. Watch for details by postcard and please, we'll need volunteers. Call Elisenda at 301-949-9416 or email kensington.book@verizon.net.

November 11th KHS Meeting: "Only Yesterday: A Historic Glance at 'the Dan'." Local historian and past KHS president, Bill Maury will be our speaker. His talk is about a strip of land from the Ken Gar Park west to the other side of the Pike. It will cover a microcosm of American growth, war, crime, education and mismanagement - from colonial to modern times. We'll start with coffee at 7:00, program at 7:30, followed by a brief business meeting in the Town Hall lower level.

Notes from the President

By Julie O'Malley

The Kensington Historical Society has something for everyone! We have continuing projects – newsletters, archiving, the annual calendar, concerts, planning meetings. We have one time projects – creating toy displays, updating *The Walking Tour*, oral history interviews, support at public events such as the Labor Day Parade and Happy Birthday Montgomery County. We have social events in December and June.

We are happy to have so many enthusiastic volunteers for our activities and can always use more. Just a reminder, if you would like to participate or inquire about something, don't hesitate to call (301-942-8933), or you can contact us through info@kensingtonhistory.org.

Volunteers

We have been so fortunate this summer! We've had three high school volunteers helping us in the **Historical Society Archives**. Kevin Gates, Rosa Salgado, and Veni Duran-Gumero have been creating signs, doing filing, distributing posters, and entering data into our computers under the supervision of Ann Pfautz and Julie O'Malley.

Thanks to the many member volunteers who have been helping throughout the summer!

Toy collection: Sigrid Doherty - organizing and inventorying,

Newsletter makeover: Sam Hoxie and Gary Ditto,

Calendar Committee: Janet Barnes, Detta Voesar, Ann Pfautz, Rosa Salgado, Gary Ditto, and Julie O'Malley,

Garden Party: Co-Chairs Elisenda Sola-Sole and Sigrid Doherty, and Mabel Baker, Ann Pfautz, Connie and Ed Kelly, Colleen and Steve Cohen, Al Lacey, Jim Adams, Gary Ditto, Barry Peoples, Tracey Furman, the Doherty family and the many others who helped with food contributions, serving, and clean-up.

Labor Day Table: Jim and Sue Mathias, Lorri Simmons, Trammell Maury, Ann Pfautz, Jack Gaffey, Sigrid and John Doherty.

Happy Birthday Montgomery County: Janet Barnes and Julie O'Malley.

Still needed: **Oral History** volunteers. We have oral history tapes which need transcribing. We have the computer, the tape player with foot pedal...**all we need is you!** (Write to info@kensingtonhistory.com.)

This fall we have two programs planned, our Antiques Road Show and a KHS meeting in November. (See *Upcoming Programs*.)

We have stayed involved in the process to "Save the Circle" now referred to as Warner Circle. I've included the text of the letter to Planning Board Chair Royce Hansen sent jointly from KHS, Citizens United to Save the Circle, and the Kensington Land. (See *Warner Circle Update*)

On another level, the Montgomery County Planning Department is beginning the process of updating the Sector Plan for Kensington and the immediate area. There are meetings being held at the Town Hall (See www.TOK.MD.gov) and at the Planning Dept. (www.mc-mncppc.org). This will continue through the winter and the Historical Society expects to be fully involved. Keep checking the websites and the Gazette. We hope to see you at the meetings!

A Salute to Gwen Wright!

Over the last twenty years, many of us have come to know Gwen Wright and to value her efforts on behalf of historic preservation in Montgomery County. Gwen recently announced that she's accepted the position of Chief of the Development Division of the City of Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning.

Gwen started in Montgomery County as a Historic Preservation Planner, spending many years as the County's Historic Preservation Supervisor. Her most recent positions included Acting Chief of Countywide Planning, interim Director of Montgomery County Planning Department, and finally permanent Chief of Countywide Planning.

Her efforts to establish the view that historic preservation is, and must always be, an integral part of the overall planning efforts for all Montgomery County will be her lasting legacy. We wish her the best in her new position.

Summer Concert Series

Another Summer Concert Series comes to a close. Thank you Wat Stewart! With such a successful season, we extended the concerts into September. The final two concerts will be September 20, **Esther Haynes**, vocalist and guitarist who performs vintage jazz, swing, blues, bossas, and bluegrass - a 2003 WAMMIE Award winner! We'll wrap up September 27 with **Silver Creek**, the local O'Malley family band.



Warner Circle Updates

The following is the text of the letter sent by Citizens United to Save the Circle (President Duane Thompson), the Kensington Historical Society (President Julie O'Malley), and the Kensington Land Trust (Treasurer Jim Engle).

[We received a reply from Director of Parks, Mary Bradford. She referred to the unique purposes of this RFP and the ongoing efforts of the Finance and Stewardship Departments to fine tune the evaluation process, and further stated that our "specific comments on the process have been passed on to the relevant staff for consideration as they refine this process." We look forward to continuing collaboration with the Parks and Planning Department staff, and to their public presentations providing opportunity for community input.]

July 2, 2008

Dear Chairman Hanson:

The undersigned community organizations are writing to request certain procedures with regard to the pending RFP applicant review process which we believe will help achieve the selection of the best proposal for Kensington, the surrounding community, and the County.

Our organizations have worked hard to preserve Warner Circle and fully support the efforts of the County and Planning Board to accomplish that goal. Citizens United to Save the Circle is comprised of residents whose homes are in the immediate vicinity of Warner Circle, as well as throughout the town and neighboring communities. The Kensington Historical Society (KHS) is a well established organization whose membership extends beyond the town limits and whose efforts placed the Kensington Historic District on the National Register in 1980. The Kensington Land Trust, incorporated in 1992 to help preserve open space in Kensington, has worked actively with the KHS to protect and preserve historic Kensington, especially Warner Circle.

The Warner property is a central feature of the Town of Kensington, and its future use is of vital importance to the Town's residents, as well as to the greater community. From the beginning, our Town government and our organizations have worked to foster a collaborative and cooperative relationship with the County and to provide timely support and information with regard to community resources, interests and concerns. This letter is submitted in the same cooperative spirit.

We appreciate the Planning Board's good-faith efforts to act in the best interests of the Town, but we remain concerned about the clarity and details of the source selection process, and more generally, about options for community participation. One resident's recent remark seems to capture the concerns of many: "We have more opportunity to formally comment on a neighbor's planned fence installation than we do on this project, the single most important project in the Town's history."

To be sure, having two community representatives on the proposal evaluation team is extremely important to us, so we thank you for granting the Town's request for this representation. At the same time, we wish to express our strong concerns regarding the pending RFP applicant review process. We do understand that this project presents a unique situation. As you noted in your May 20th letter to Mayor Fosselman, this is "not the typical RFP." It does not call for the standard bi-county regulations for procurement, but for a process that will be customized to accommodate the particular needs of this project, including the possibility of a public/private partnership. As the County forges new

ground with this special project, we urge that you strike a balance between the County's procedural requirements and the public's right to be informed.

As you are aware, our community is engaged and informed on most of the issues surrounding this project. As in most cases, the affected community constitutes an important customer base whose positive, proactive involvement is essential to facilitate a successful outcome. We are also aware that a "lack of community acceptance" is often cited in the inevitable post mortem of failed public projects. Please know that we stand firm in our commitment to help ensure that this project is successful for all involved. With this in mind, we ask that you implement the following requests, which we believe will lead to the selection of the best use for all concerned.

Prior to review of respondent proposals by the evaluation team, provide a presentation to the Town's citizens, clarifying the steps and options involved in the selection process as well as the overall objectives / approach of the project, allowing for questions from the audience. This presentation should provide an explanation of the entire process, such as a description of the source selection process; the decision process, including legal authority; applicable public regulations; anticipated timeframe; decision milestones; any planned public meetings; and subsequent procedures and actions.

Allow community organizations and residents to present concerns and interests to the Planning Board and / or evaluation team at a public meeting held prior to the review of proposals. We believe that newly-appointed Planning Board members as well as the evaluation team would benefit from hearing the "citizens' perspective" in addition to briefings by Planning Board staff

Conduct a public hearing or meeting on the conceptual elements of the proposals following initial evaluations and prior to any formal recommendations to the Planning Board. Given the unique aspects of this public project, we believe a conceptual presentation would serve to keep the community appropriately informed without compromising any specific proprietary information. This could be accomplished by requiring respondents to provide a concept abstract for public review as an addendum to the RFP.

In closing, we want to emphasize that we greatly appreciate the tremendous commitment and effort put forth by M-NCPPC to preserve this important legacy resource for the County; and we understand and appreciate the benefit to all of our mutual cooperation and continuing dialogue. We, as representatives of several of Kensington's citizen groups, remain at your disposal to respond to suggestions for making the RFP as transparent as possible. Providing for citizens' input will surely result in the selection of the best use, which use will be fully supported by the Town's residents.

Respectfully,

Citizens United to Save the Circle, President Duane Thompson
 Kensington Historical Society, President Julie O'Malley
 Kensington Land Trust, Treasurer Jim Engle

KHS SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



President Julie O'Malley presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mary, Wat, and Betsy Stewart for their efforts in the establishment of the KHS Community Concert Series.

Certificates of Appreciation for "furthering the preservation of Warner Circle" were also presented to State Delegate Al Carr and Councilwoman Sharon Scott, accepting of behalf of the Mayor and Town Council. They have been working hard for us in Annapolis! For more pictures, please see www.kensingtonhistory.org.

*Enjoy our
Isabelle Barr Toy Exhibit
 at Noyes Library during the
 month of October. Open
 Tuesday, Thursday and
 Saturday. (Phone Julie
 301-942-8933 to help.)*

**2009 KHS CALENDARS
 ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

They may be picked up at the Archives in the Town Hall Fridays 9 to 12, at one of our meetings, or call 301-942-8933. They remain \$5.00 and are free to paid members.

Recent Donations from History Patrons

KHS is happy to receive donations to its Archives. We have purchased a wonderful scanner for the Archives. If you have photos to contribute, we would be happy to scan them "while you wait."

- Three resource books on preservation and restoration from Elisenda Sola-Sole, Kensington Row Bookshop.

- On loan: the Honorary Councilman Badge awarded to Daniel F. Hayes, Sr. by the Town of Kensington, from Dan Hayes.
- Archive Computer from TJ O'Malley.
- Country Cupboard Tearoom Menu from Louise Hamilton.
- Historic photos and a Ken-Gar Plat surveyed in 1892 from the Mizell family.
- Historic photos from the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

KHS Board 2007-2009

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The Kensington Historical Society Inc.

The Kensington Historical Society was founded in June 1977 to safeguard and promote the splendid heritage of the Town of Kensington. The Society, composed of over 180 members, furthers its mission by maintaining a library of publications, newspaper clippings and photographs to preserve a record of the Town's cultural history. The Society also presents educational programs at quarterly meetings, encourages the maintenance and restoration of Kensington's historic structures, hosts semi-annual social events, sponsors community concerts through the year and publishes a newsletter and yearly calendar to honor some feature of historic Kensington.

The Kensington Historical Society welcomes all to join and encourages members to volunteer for its many committees and projects. The Society meets at the Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington. For more information about the Society, please join us at one of our meetings or write us at the address below. Meetings are listed on the monthly calendar of the Town of Kensington website: www.TOK.MD.gov, as well as the KHS website: www.kensingtonhistory.org. Paid members receive a free calendar and also mailed meeting notices and newsletters.



Kensington Historical Society

Annual dues January 1st through December 31st:

- INDIVIDUAL Membership \$ 20
- FAMILY Membership \$ 25
- Business (Small & Non-Profit) \$75
- Corporate \$100
- Lifetime \$500

I want to join the Kensington Historical Society for year _____ Renew Membership for year _____

Enclosed: \$ _____

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

I am interested in the following committees: (Please circle below)

Lived in Kensington since _____ (year)

Programs Membership Newsletter Socials Archives Concerts Grants Oral Histories Preservation

(Please send completed lower portion of this form to KHS, PO. Box 453, Kensington, MD 20895)

IN MEMORIAM

Marshall Gooding*By: Barbara Scharman*

A long-time resident of Kensington and member of the Historical Society, William Marshall Gooding, age 90, passed away on July 7th. Mr. Gooding's family dates back at least three generations in Kensington and his family tree extends to other long-time town and area residents. His grandfather moved to Dupont Avenue around 1912 and he and his family later lived in the house. He returned to Kensington after his World War II service and lived again on Dupont Avenue with his wife, Dorothy (Jones) Gooding and his two children, just down the street from where he had lived as a teenager. The late Mrs. Gooding, for whom the Council Room at Town Hall is named, served on the Town Council and for many years as Clerk Treasurer. She was from a family with a long and connected history in town as well. Mr. Gooding enjoyed sharing family and historical information about Kensington and was involved in and concerned about issues facing the town. He provided the Historical Society with an oral history of his life in Kensington and shared many tidbits of what life was like in town over the last century.

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Kensington Historical Society
PO Box 453
Kensington, MD 20895

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**OUR 2ND ANNUAL
ANTIQUES
ROADSHOW!**
Tues., October 14, 2008
6-7:30 pm

KHS MEETING
Tues., November 11, 2008
We hope you will join us!