



# ABOUT TOWN

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

PO Box 453, Kensington MD 20895 March 2009

## Warner Circle Updates



See our update by KHS board member Barbara Sharman.  
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## Special Appreciation

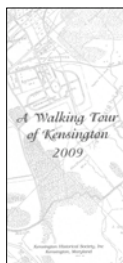
The Society appreciates the many contributions of time and items from our friends and neighbors. Take a few minutes to acknowledge the many individuals who have contributed in different ways.

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## 2009 Kensington Walking Tour

More to see, more to learn.

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## 2009 Membership



Join today!  
Membership form for new & returning members - pull out the one-page insert and send it in!

## We Need You!

See our upcoming opportunities, visit the Archives and stay connected!

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## Kensington History gets noticed!

Watch for a nod to Kensington's history in an upcoming Bethesda Magazine issue.

## Warner Circle Update

By Barbara Sharman

The Town's Warner Advisory Committee met on February 11 for an update of the news that the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) did not make a selection for a tenant for the property, as a result of the RFP process, as no candidates were financially viable. MNCPPC will conduct a feasibility study and plans on renovating the property for public use by MNCPPC. They sought input from the Committee for suggestions and ideas on possible uses on the property. MNCPPC is requesting a statement from the Town of Kensington on what uses the Town would like to see at the property.

MNCPPC plans include tearing down the nursing home wing, relocating the headquarters staff of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division to the mansion, and use of the carriage house for storage of water monitoring equipment, according to Brenda Sandberg of the Parks Department. Ms. Sandberg expressed support at the meeting for allowing public access to the mansion after work hours, provided the MNCPPC offices are secured. Use of and

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## Ric Nelson to speak on the B & O and Kensington, Tuesday March 10, 2009

We are pleased to have Ric Nelson speaking about the importance of the B & O Railroad Line to Kensington; why it came to be here and how it changed this community. Mr. Nelson has a gift for connecting local historical information with the history of the B & O Line. He has written for the alumnae association at the Forest Glen Seminary and also co-authored Forest Glen with Rich Schaffer. A power-point presentation of historic photos will accompany his talk.

The Society meets Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at the Kensington Town Hall/ Armory building, 3710 Mitchell St. Our meeting begins at 7 p.m. with coffee, hot cider and cookies, followed by the program at 7:30 p.m., concluding with a brief business meeting. The public is always welcome at our meetings - please join us!



View from the Station - Mizell's still looks the same!

**SPECIAL APPRECIATION**

We would like to acknowledge some of the behind the scenes activity at the Society!

**Oral Histories**

Jim Mathias has interviewed Judge Joseph Marshall Mathias, transcription by Leanne Pfautz.

Toni Ward has interviewed John Stubbs.

Barbara Scharman and Julie O'Malley interviewed Morris Parker.

**Toy Collection**

Barbara Scharman, Janet Barnes, and Julie O'Malley have installed an exhibit from the Isabelle Barr collection at the Noyes Library.

Sigrid Doherty is working on organizing and categorizing the Toys in this collection.

**Deed Research**

Harley Higgins is continuing in his research of local deeds, this time with details of the St. Paul Park.

**Archives**

Barry Peoples has donated a file cabinet to the Archives.

Steve Cohen created a locking system for our small display case so that we can display items publicly.

**Recent Donations from History Patrons**

Photo donations by Dan Hayes.

A CD recording of Access Montgomery's TV coverage of our Antiques Road Show. (Channels 19 & 21).

Photo CD of Historical Photos of the Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1926-1955 from Bill Burns.

Monetary donation from Ken Goldsmith.

Oral History Transcript on "Old Kensington." This is an interview of Mary Hall (Charter Member of KHS) by Madelyn Royal for the Montgomery County Historical Society. Donated by the Town of Kensington.

**More About Town**

Congratulations to **St. Paul's United Methodist Church** on their new history book, *The Spirit of Methodism in Kensington, 1885-2007!* (This includes lots of Town history.) Their book will be available for sale at our March 10th meeting (\$25.00).



THE EVOLUTION OF ART DECO JEWELRY will be the subject of a talk and slide show by Tony Wilner at the **Kensington Row Bookshop**, 3786 Howard Avenue, March 12, 7:30 PM. Future programs are listed at [www.kensingtonrowbookshop.com](http://www.kensingtonrowbookshop.com).

**Stay Connected**

To keep abreast of County or Town changes which will affect Kensington, please check these websites:

- [www.TOK.MD.gov](http://www.TOK.MD.gov) For Kensington Town Government.
- [www.montgomeryplanning.org](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org) For Sector Plan information see: Your Neighborhood – Master Plans; east transit corridor, Kensington and Vicinity.
- [www.montgomeryparks.org](http://www.montgomeryparks.org) Stewardship; Cultural Resources, i.e. Warner Circle and Kensington Cabin.
- [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) See County Council; Committee Agenda; PHED Committee: possible consolidation of Montgomery County Recreation Department and MNCPPC Parks Department (See above.).
- [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) See County Council; Packets and Meeting Summaries; Agenda 2/24 item #6 on Historic Resource Preservation Amendments. Public Hearing 3/31, 7:30.
- [www.kensingtonhistory.org](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org) Updates on items of interest.

**2009 KHS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

**OFFICERS:**

President Julie O'Malley  
 Vice Presidents Elisenda Sola-Sole & Steve Cohen  
 Treasurer Detta Voesar  
 Recording Secretary Leanne Pfautz  
 Corresponding Secretary Open

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

Archives Ann Pfautz  
 Calendar Janet Barnes  
 Concerts Wat Stewart  
 Grants Barbara Scharman  
 Membership Toni Ward  
 Newsletter Gary Ditto  
 Oral Histories Leanne Pfautz  
 Preservation John Doherty  
 Programs Eli Sola-Sole & Steve Cohen

**AT LARGE MEMBERS**

Stuart Cohen  
 Sigrid Doherty  
 Jack Gaffey  
 Barry Peoples  
 Barbara Scharman

**More Toys at Noyes**

Please stop in the Noyes Children's Library and enjoy our current exhibit of toys from the Isabelle Barr Collection: "Nursery Rhymes and Folk Tales." They will be featured through March. Library hours are 9 to 5, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

## A Walking Tour of Kensington 2009

We are proud to announce our newest publication - hot off the presses: *A Walking Tour of Kensington 2009*. The Kensington Historical Society Walking Tour committee has worked long hours over the past year, researching, editing, revising and researching some more, to bring you a new and expanded version of our Walking Tour, first produced in 1994. We have added more information about our history as a town, about our parkland, and about our early business district. It includes a Chronological History tree and 1994 Subdivision Map. These booklets will be distributed free to all 2009 paid members of the society as well as to all Town residents. We hope you will enjoy leaning more about your community!

The Society is grateful to all committee members: Sheila Dunne, Harley Higgins, Ann Pfautz, Trammell Maury, Julie O'Malley, T.J. O'Malley and Barbara Scharman. We also acknowledge those who contributed to the first edition, as well as inspiration from Edith Saul, the Society's first unofficial "archivist."

This publication was financed in part by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission Grant Fund which is administered by the HPC and the Montgomery County Planning Board of the M-NCPPC. Printing by Knowles Printing of Kensington. Additional copies may be purchased from the Historical Society and local shops for \$3.00.

**KHS would like to thank  
DOUG AND JENNY  
SMITH**  
for hosting our Annual  
Holiday Party this year!

## Upcoming Opportunities

Please consider volunteering on one of our committees. Currently our **By-Laws Review Committee** is doing just that – want to help? Email PfautzL@staff.abanet.org. Our **Preservation Committee** is meeting with the Parks Department on Warner Circle and Kensington Cabin. Summer brings our outdoor activities to the forefront! Would you like to help with the **Saturday Concert Series**? Can you help plan our summer **Garden Party**? Maybe you'd like to write for our **Newsletter**, work in the **Archives**, help with the **Toy Collection**, or would you love to make displays? Have some **history to share**? Email omalley10@msn.com or call Julie at 301-942-8933. She'd be happy to give you more details and put you in touch with the right person!



### 2009 KHS Calendars

This year's calendar, Past and Present, includes local photographs throughout Kensington's past in juxtaposition with current photos. All paid members receive a calendar with their membership. If you have not gotten your 2009 Calendar, you may pick it up at the March 10th meeting. Calendars will also be for sale at the meeting and at local shops. (Questions? Call Julie at 301-942-8933.)



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public access to the grounds will be encouraged by the Parks Department.

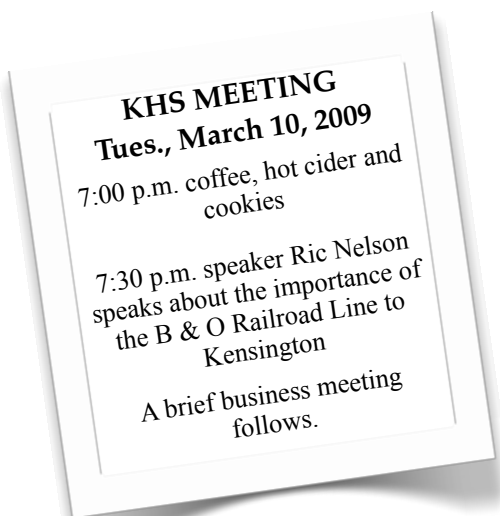
Much of the meeting time was devoted to discussion of use of the carriage house for arts activities and there was strong support for this. A model train group also was present and made a presentation of their model train display, suggesting a portion of the building be made available for a permanent display for interactive use. Only two Advisory Committee members were present, so instead of formal recommendations being made by the Committee, specific comments from residents were solicited and recorded. In addition to the arts activities at the carriage house and model train display, people suggested: an interpretive history of the railroads and their role in developing Montgomery County's "railroad cluster" communities like Kensington; historic displays in the mansion, including a permanent "history room"; relocate the Town Hall to the mansion main floor with space for public functions and meetings; swap town storage space for the county's water testing equipment to free up the carriage house for public activities; use the carriage house as a horse barn and therapeutic riding center; establish an organic garden; designate the area as an arts and entertainment district to receive special tax benefits under state law.

At the Town Meeting on February 23, Ms. Sandberg, the Town Council, and residents discussed how to combine the office space use and storage use for the Parks Department, public use of parts of the mansion and carriage house, and the possibility of a new addition to the mansion to accommodate MNCPPC needs including an elevator. The Mayor and Council will meet with the Town attorney and Warner Committee members to formulate their response.

**REMINDER:** KHS is a wonderful place for your child or neighbor's child to earn Student Service Volunteer hours! Please email [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) for more information or call Julie at 240-460-2548. We are a MCPS pre-approved non-profit organization and offer many opportunities at varying times.

**Kensington Historical Society**  
**PO Box 453**  
**Kensington, MD 20895**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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KENSINGTON, MD  
PERMIT NO. 5022



**MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED**

*The Society wishes to thank those members who have renewed their memberships for 2009.*

## ***Vision of Kensington – Preservation Plan for the Future***

By Leanne Pfautz

The *Vision of Kensington* is the long-range preservation plan for the Kensington Historic District. Adopted in 1992 by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), the Montgomery County Council, the M-NCPPC Planning Board, AND by the Town of Kensington, the *Vision of Kensington* is used by the HPC when considering changes and alterations to the Kensington Historic District. The *Vision* provides a specific physical description of the district; an analysis of character-defining features of the district; a discussion of the challenges facing the district; and a discussion of proposed strategies for maintaining the character of the district while allowing for appropriate growth and change. A copy of the *Vision of Kensington* and a shorter Executive Summary can be found on the website for the Kensington Historical Society ([www.kensingtonhistory.org/vision.html](http://www.kensingtonhistory.org/vision.html)).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Priscilla Arenas  
Paul and Deborah Eckert  
Geary and Margaret Fitzpatrick  
Dan Hayes  
Peggy O'Brien  
Theresa Wilson

## **The KHS Archives**

The Kensington Historical Society maintains an Archive in the Town Hall on the lower level. We've had quite a lot of activity there lately and we'd like to extend an invitation to those who may wish to do research, read articles, or just to visit the archives to join us. We remain open on Fridays 9:30 to 12, but seem to be there many other times as well. Please contact Julie O'Malley 240-460-2548 to see if we're in, or to arrange a time with one of our members to come in. We do research for programs, copy old photographs, search our files to answer questions, respond to email requests sent to our website [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org), prepare exhibits and are constantly trying to keep up with the filing. If any of this sounds interesting to you, why not come in and work with us!