



About Town

The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter

UPCOMING KHS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4th

CAPITAL STREETCARS

John DeFerrari will speak at our October 4th meeting. He is the author of Capital Streetcars: Early Mass Transit in Washington, D.C.

Before cars and superhighways and the DC Metro started taking us to where we live and work and play, streetcars reigned in Washington, DC. For 100 years they were the main means of public transportation, beginning during the Lincoln administration in 1862. Historian John DeFerrari has delighted audiences with his thorough knowledge of this period of local history, enhancing his talk with a slide show. He does not cover the Kensington trolley line or other suburban lines, but they were all dependent on the early DC trolley infrastructure being built first.

Please join us on the lower level of the Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street at 7 p.m. for coffee, cookies and conversation. Our program will begin at 7:30. Mr. DeFerrari will have his books for sale!



ANOTHER SATURDAY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES CONCLUDES!

We are grateful for your continued attendance that makes the series such a success. We thank the Historical Society Members and the supporters without whom we could not bring such wonderful music to you. We especially thank the performers who love to return because of the warm reception they receive from our community.

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3716 HOWARD AVENUE

Have you ever wondered about the building behind the Howard Avenue Park? Currently it is owned and run by the Prevention of Blindness Society of Greater Washington, but it has a long history beginning just after the incorporation of the Town. We look to an excerpt from Knowles Station and The Town of Kensington 1870-1963, by Kensington resident William L. Townsend, February 1964:

THE MONTGOMERY PRESS

Although he had a home in Washington at 2100 Massachusetts Avenue, Mr. Warner, after 1890, spent more than half of the year in his new home in Kensington. He was deeply interested in Republican politics, and saw the need for a county paper with a Republican flavor. The only county paper, the old established Sentinel, was devoted to the Democratic party, as were all such county-seat papers in rural Maryland, dependent as they were on Court House printing and advertising.

Along about 1895, Mr. Warner started the Montgomery Press as a weekly paper, and built and equipped a printing office adjacent to and west of the Town Hall [at that time located on Howard Avenue, east of the Montgomery Press building]. He arranged with Cornelius W. Clum [residing at 10216 Kensington Parkway] to manage and operate the paper and the job printing establishment. After a number of years, Mr. Clum acquired the paper and the property and operated it until his death in 1935.

The experiment of starting a Republican paper was a gamble, as Montgomery County in the 1890's was a rural, heavily Democratic county, with a few pockets of Republicans in Sandy Spring, Damascus and Rockville. With the growth of the suburban area, and advertising from Washington, the paper was successful and for many years was the only newspaper, other than the Sentinel, published in the County. Throughout its history the Montgomery Press faithfully recorded the news, and the political and social life of the community...

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After the close of the newspaper, the building became doctors' offices and a veterinarian's office.

The KHS Archives has a complete collection of The Montgomery Press newspapers on microfilm. ([info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org)), as well as copies of the Montgomery County Historical Society's 1963 & 1964 editions of the Montgomery County Story with Wilson Townsend's history.

## The HISTORY OF WINEMAKING IN MARYLAND



Jack Gaffey,  
Julie O'Malley,  
Laura Rhode,  
Janet Barnes  
Trammell Maury

## A REVIEW

By Angela Mickalide

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Kensington Historical Society welcomed Laura Rhode from Knob Hall Winery who described the history of winemaking in Maryland. Approximately 30 audience members in attendance at the Town Hall event learned that in 1662 Cecil Calvert (aka Lord Baltimore and son of Governor Charles Calvert) established 200 acres of vineyards in St. Mary's County. The wine was made predominantly from European grapes, but the business failed as tobacco farming took precedence. In 1823, John Adlum of Havre de Grace, Maryland began experimenting with North American wine-native grapes, producing the Catawba varietal. His authorship of Memoir on the Cultivation of the Vine in America and the Best Mode of Making Wine earned him the appellation as "Father of American Viticulture". In 1933, Philip Wagner, a Baltimore Sun columnist, wrote the definitive book on wine-making in America entitled Grapes Into Wine, considered a classic to this day. Mr. Wagner opened the Boordy Vineyards in 1945 and hybridized grapes as a novel wine making technique. Fast-forwarding to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, wine production has surpassed tobacco production in Maryland. This was due in part to Governor Parris Glendening's 2001 Tobacco Buyout which reduced growth of this crop by 81%. Today in Maryland there are more than 50 wineries, eight of which are located in Montgomery County. After a lively question-and-answer period, the audience sampled and purchased the many fine wines produced by Knob Hall Winery, more information of which can be found on their website: [www.knobhallwinery.com](http://www.knobhallwinery.com).

6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN SHOW!

Again we thank Diana and Gary Ditto for their continued efforts to bring family fun to Kensington. We appreciate this special support as they donate the proceeds to the Kensington Historical Society and the Friends of the Noyes Children's Library Foundation. It was another wonderful weekend!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Elizbeth Elam  
Michael Gordon  
Grace Graham  
Sara Lyons  
Diane Meyers  
Amy Moskowitz  
Kyle Richards  
Teodora Salow  
Vicky Surles & Jack Marshall

## WE HAVE ARCHIVES!

DO YOU? That is, do you have something to share? We are collecting photographs, stories, family histories, remembrances, papers - you may not realize what you have that would add to the history of Kensington.

The KHS Archive is on the ground floor of the Town Hall and is open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Thursday. We can also meet you there by appointment: [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org) or call Julie at 240-460-2548

Come visit and see what we have! Bring your photos and house histories! We can scan them while you wait. Come and see what we do. Join us in the exploration and preservation of Kensington's history.

## 2017 CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE!

2017 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kensington Historical Society! This calendar features a mere sampling of the things the society does, and has done, over these years. The calendar is dedicated to the Kensington Historical Society's Charter Members and to ALL who have sustained the organization through their membership, financial support, and volunteer spirit. Your strong support and hard work have enabled the last 40 years of efforts to preserve Kensington's past for generations to come. Members, be sure to pick up your free calendar at the October 4<sup>th</sup> KHS meeting! Extra copies are sold for \$5.00.

**LOCAL EVENTS:**

October 1st, Saturday. LAST Howard Avenue Park concert. Ruthie Logsdon & Greg Hardin play country music for your pleasure. The free KHS Concert Series will return next June.

October 4th, Tuesday, KHS General Meeting. Program: Capital Streetcars, 7 p.m. Town Hall.

October 6th & 20th KTown Food Truck Night - Bring the family every 1st and 3rd Thursday May-October for food trucks and community! Meet at 10419 Armory Avenue from 5-8pm. <http://explorekensington.com/events>.

October 7th 9 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Oct. 8th 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Quilt Show & Artisan Boutique at the Town Hall, Kensington. Exhibit, silent auction, raffle & demonstrations. [www.needlechasers.org/quilt-show-2016.htm](http://www.needlechasers.org/quilt-show-2016.htm).

October 16th, Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts & Crafts Vendors • Vintage Vendors • Live Music • Kids Entertainment • Moon Bounce • Food Trucks Join in the fun on Sunday, Oct 16 from 11am - 4pm at 10417 Armory Avenue. Music all over town, fun for kids, over 60 handmade vendors, food, belly dancing and more! [www.kensingtonfallfestivalmd.com](http://www.kensingtonfallfestivalmd.com).

October 28,29, Nov 4, 5, 6, CABARET performed by Kensington Arts Theater (KAT) at the Town Hall. \$17 for Kensington residents. [www.katonline.org](http://www.katonline.org).

October 29th, Saturday, GIGS is again producing their Pumpkin Rock N' Roll extravaganza for kids of all ages. The website [www.pumpkinrocknroll.com](http://www.pumpkinrocknroll.com) states there will be a costume contest and parade, musical performances, food trucks, inflatable rides and slides, a rock wall, and the Pumpkin Roll.

COMING SOON! Watch for the new KHS mobile website complete with expanded Walking Tours!!!

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YES! We love student volunteers!
 The Kensington Historical Society is on the approved list for Student Service Learning (SSL) credit. Come visit the Archive (Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Lower Level, Thursdays 1 to 3) or inquire at info@kensingtonhistory.com to find out how and when you can help!
 Visit our website: www.kensingtonhistory.org.

KHS SPRING GARDEN PARTY



Society members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon Garden Party in Alan and Donna Spealman's delightful setting. From spacious flower beds to tiny "Faery Gardens," truly a Victorian garden, replete with water

KHS KENSINGTON MUGS

These good looking mugs make great gifts for the holidays. They catch your eye with the logo: "Where the Train Still Stops and the People Still Walk."

Find yours at the Kensington Row Bookshop, or a KHS Meeting, \$5.00.

Thanks to Our Supporters! The KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS and OUR SPONSORS:
BENEFACTORS: The DITTO GROUP, KENSINGTON PARK SENIOR LIVING, KENSINGTON SERVICE CENTER;
PATRONS: Dish and Dram, Kensington Pharmacy, Knowles Printing Services;
SUPPORTERS: Ayoub N & H Carpet & Rugs, Baklava Couture Artisan Bakery, Catch Can, Chesapeake Framing Company, David Gregg's Tree Service & Garden Maintenance, Edward Jones/Paul Sexton - Financial Advisor, Frankly...Pizza, GALA Artisan Jewelry & Gifts, Hardware City, JennyCakes Bakery, JSA Cardozo Home Remodeling, Jubilee Association of MD, Kensington Caboose, Kensington Pizza & Kabob, Kensington Row Bookshop, K Town Bistro, Kyle Richards Realty, Logan's Automotive, Moose, Green & Korom, PA, NiMaSte YOGA, One-Stop Tax & Business Service, Patrick Realty Co, Inc., Precious Pals, Robert J. Kelly, DDS, Sage Eclectic Consignment, Susan I. Wranik Associates, LLC, Talia's Cuzina, Textile & Rug Museum, Thien Kim Barbershop, & the Town of Kensington.

Kensington Historical Society
PO Box 453
Kensington, MD 20895

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NEXT KHS MEETING
TUESDAY, October 4th

Capital Streetcars with
Author John DeFerrari
Town Hall, Lower Level
3710 Mitchell Street
7:00 p.m. Coffee
7:30 p.m. Program

TIRED of getting mailings? Let us know, we will email your newsletter; info@kensingtonhistory.com

KENSINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM for 2017

INDIVIDUAL Membership \$ 20
FAMILY Membership \$ 30

Business (Small & Non-Profit) \$75
Corporate \$100
Lifetime \$500

- I want to join the Kensington Historical Society
 Renew Membership (See label above for "paid through date.")

Annual dues January 1st through December 31st

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

I/we have lived in Kensington since _____ I am interested in the following committees: (Please circle)

Programs Membership Newsletter Socials Archives Concerts
Grants Oral Histories Preservation

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