



About Town

The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter

KHS MEETING OCTOBER 3rd

KENSINGTON'S GASOLINE ALLEY – REMEMBERING THE HOT RODS AND RACE CARS!

Author Cynthia Monroe will give a presentation on Kensington's "Gasoline Alley" (1949 to 1975). The name "Gasoline Alley" comes from the famous garage area at Indy, but our Gasoline Alley comprised the three rows of garages behind the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department. The Alley was decidedly unglamorous ---except for all the extraordinary (and now very valuable) cars that could be found there!

Located in the Alley were two of America's most important hot rod clubs: The DC Dragons (1957-1958) and the Silver Spring Ram Rods (1962-1975). The Alley was also the home of some of the most innovative dragster and sports car builders of the era, as well as race car drivers of every type. For a time, one particular shop in the Alley was the only place between New York and Miami where one could buy a Ferrari.

Copies of Cindy's new book Kensington Maryland's Gasoline Alley (<https://thealleybook.com>) will be available for sale (\$63.60) and for signing after the presentation.

Join us at the Kensington Town Hall, Lower Level, 3710 Mitchell St., 7:00 for coffee, cookies and conversation. A brief business meeting is followed by the program. Free and open to the public.



KHS MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNIZED BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

KHS marked their 40th Anniversary with a grand party June 10th on the Warner grounds! County Executive Isaiah Leggett sent a Certificate to KHS "in recognition and appreciation of 40 years as a vibrant and dynamic Montgomery County community organization". We deeply appreciate this acknowledgement. At the Celebration, violin music was provided by Elizabeth Cunha and her students. Special events included: presentations by President Julie O'Malley to Past Presidents Jim Wagner, Noel Raufaste, TJ O'Malley, John Robinson, and Barry Peoples. Special recognition was also given to both Barry Peoples and Leanne Pfautz (who helped start our Concert Series with Wat Stewart,

and was Newsletter editor for many years) for their outstanding contributions to the Society and to the community. Delegate Al Carr and Mayor Tracey Furman spoke on what the Society and the preservation of history means to the Town. Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher also was in attendance.

Not only was KHS celebrating the 40th Anniversary and all the achievements by the Society over the past 40 years, but also a recent achievement: a new website which is enabled on smart phones to take you step by step on four Walking Tours of Kensington. KHS celebrated "Walk the Town" with a wonderful variety of very special hand painted shoes, now on display in the Town Hall main lobby. Thanks to artists Kaylor Stroot (Brookewood School student), Ann Stone (Gala and Kensington CAN), Moira Densar and Bahia Akerele (On the Purple Couch), Andra Doherty (KHS).

TRAIN SHOW – ALL ABOARD FOR KENSINGTON!

September 9 & 10 at the Kensington Town Hall. Another fabulous weekend of model trains, music, and stories! It kicks off with music from the Dixieland Express Saturday at 11:00. Sunday's special event includes Matthew Dodd bringing stories and songs for all ages to enjoy from 1:00 to 4:00. And of course, the National Capital Trackers will be there ALL weekend 11:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. They will be "attended" by the Train Doctor.

We thank Diana and Gary Ditto for their continued efforts to bring family fun to Kensington. We appreciate their special support as they donate the proceeds to the Kensington Historical Society and the Friends of the Noyes Children's Library Foundation.

CHANGES IN OUR COMMUNITY FOUNTAIN

Many of you are enjoying the new fountain installed in Flinn Park through the undying efforts of Mark Hudson and donation from many local businesses, residents, and the Town of Kensington.

(See Page 2)

CHANGES Continued:**MILLSTONE**

The remarkable MILLSTONE, recently in Flinn Park, has been moved to a permanent location in the Clum-Kennedy Garden near Kensington Parkway. It is from a small mill near Saul Road on Silver Creek and was donated to the Town by Jim Bullard, descendant of Alfred Ray whose farm once spread between Kensington and Forest Glen.

HOWARD AVENUE PARK

Many, many thanks to Angie and Stuart Freeman for their dedicated weekly maintenance of the Howard Avenue Park! We continue to enjoy the plantings done by Greenscape Committee members and friends. Some of you may have noted a pink rose bush blooming in one of the flowerbeds. It was hybridized by local resident and rosarian Ben Williams who named it the "Town of (HOWARD AVENUE PARK continued) Kensington Rose," and donated this plant to the Park. The rose is available commercially for those who need a special plant in their garden.

The VICTORIAN ROOM

After 37 years, the Victorian Room in the Town Hall will be rededicated. In 1976, the Town, led by Mayor Jayne Plank began working with the Woman's Club of Kensington and the Woman's Community Club of Kensington to create a Victorian Room so all could enjoy and be reminded of the Victorian times for which our Town is noted. The space has been underutilized lately and a Town committee is working on a new use for the room. It will be completely refurbished - if you've been by the Town Hall lately, you've seen that the work on this room near the Drill Hall has already been started. Please send any comments, suggestions, visions for new uses of this space to Mayor.Tracey@TOK.MD.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS**KHS SATURDAY CONCERT SERIES CONTINUES!**

10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Howard Avenue Park. (See the complete schedule on p.3)

50th LABOR DAY PARADE and FESTIVAL!

September 4th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone loves a parade, and we'd love some volunteers at our table on Armory Avenue. Please contact info@kensingtonhistory.com. For more details on the Parade and Festival, see www.TOK.MD.gov under Calendar.

**SOS Presents A ROARING TWENTIES SPEAKEASY!**

SAVE OUR SEMINARY is having a gala event in the Ballroom at the National Park Seminary on September 9th from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Period jazz band and dancing, tastes of local area cuisine and drinks, "gambling" and more to take you back to the heyday of the Roaring Twenties. Tickets must be purchased by Sept. 6. (301-589-1715)

info@saveourseminary.org,
www.saveourseminary.org

KEN-GAR's 125th ANNIVERSARY

September 16, noon to 6 p.m., Leonard D. Jackson Community Center, 4111 Plyers Mill Road.

Come and learn more about the history of this neighborhood tucked behind the Fire House and Gasoline Alley. Head straight on Plyers Mill to find a quiet community which has existed since 1892. There will be displays and historical photos, musical entertainment, BBQ, a moon bounce and more. Watch the listservs for more details.

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!

We also love non-student volunteers! We have committees for every taste. View the Volunteer tab under "Support Us" on our website:

www.kensingtonhistory.org.

KHS Saturday Summer Concert Series

Howard Avenue Park 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

- May 20 Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Chorus
 May 27 Dixieland Express ~ New Orleans traditional jazz
 June 3 David Meredith ~ Rock, pop, jazz and folk
 June 10 Janine Wilson & Max Evans ~ Rock/roots/blues
 June 17 Mystic Warriors ~ World music from the Andes
 June 24 Scrub Pines ~ Traditional Americana
 July 1 Mike & Natalie ~ Songs to sing to, all genres
 July 8 Rita Clarke & the Naturals ~ Rhythm & blues
 July 15 Blue Book Value ~ Rhythm & blues swing band
 July 22 Ruthie Logsdon & Greg Hardin (of Ruthie & the Wranglers) ~ Country
 July 29 2nd Story RESCHEDULED DUE TO RAIN
 August 5 Sisters Uke & Friends ~ Fun, friendly, ukulele music
 Aug. 12 Ellen Cherry ~ Spunky pop
 Aug. 19 Esther Haynes & Keith Grimes ~ Vintage jazz, swing, blues
 Aug. 26 Silver Strings ~ Folk, traditional, & contemporary
 Sept. 2 2nd Story Band ~ Folk, blues, alternative & world beat
 Sept. 9 Dede & the Do-Rights ~ Rock 'n' Roots, country
 Sept. 16 GP Jams ~ Eclectic folk pop
 Sept. 23 Rick Franklin ~ Piedmont Blues
 Sept. 30 Silver Creek (the O'Malleys) ~ Country, Hawaiian, ragtime, & fiddle

Across from the Train Station Farmers' Market

DONATIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

CIVIL WAR GUIDE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY, by Charles T. Jacobs, donated by our May Speaker, Eileen McGuckian.
 KENSINGTON (a memoir about friendship, love, and life in a small town) by Robert Haydon.
 NEWS CLIPPINGS, from Marjorie Parce dated 1966 to 2013.
 HISTORICAL MATERIAL ABOUT CAPITAL VIEW, from Don and Marv Alice Silbert.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Nicole Andrews
 Jessica & Daniel Chertow
 Lynn Victor Donham
 Brian Hak
 Bruce Hubbard
 H.V. Kelly
 Wendy Ketcham
 Eileen McGuckian

2018 CALENDARS AVAILABLE!

The theme of our 2018 calendar is Look Up!. It reflects the challenge that the American Institute of Architects issued to members in 2017. When you explore Kensington – or any other place – look up and pay attention to interesting features and design elements that might otherwise escape your notice. Remember, buildings want to be noticed!

Members can pick up their free calendar at the Labor Day Festival, and all KHS events. Extra copies are sold for \$5.00.

KHS KENSINGTON MUGS

These good looking mugs make great gifts. 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 event, \$5.00.

Thanks for all your support HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS, SPONSORS, and the TOWN of KENSINGTON!

BENEFACTORS: The DITTO GROUP, KENSINGTON PARK SENIOR LIVING, KENSINGTON SERVICE CENTER, KENSINGTON STROSNIDERS.

PATRONS: Donut King, Kensington Pharmacy, Knowles Printing Services; McEneaney Realtors(Mark Hudson & Kathy Byars).

SUPPORTERS: Ayoub N & H Carpet & Rugs, Blissful Giraffe Boutique, Edward Jones/Paul Sexton - Financial Advisor, Pete Fosselman, Frankly...Pizza, GALA Artisan Jewelry & Gifts,, David Gregg's Tree Service & Garden Maintenance, JennyCakes Bakery, Johnson's Florist & Garden Center, Jubilee Association of MD, Robert J. Kelly DDS & Associates, Kensington Day Spa & Nails, Kensington Row Bookshop, Logan's Automotive, Long & Foster Realty (Kyle Richards, Realtor), Moose, Green & Korom, PA, OAK (Gayle Herrmann & Cladia Milerg), Precious Pals, Sage Eclectic Consignment, Sweet Hairafter (Denise Sharpe), Textile & Rug Museum, Walk in Vintage, Wisteria Antiques & Collectibles, Susan I. Wranik Associates, LLC .

Kensington Historical Society
PO Box 453
Kensington, MD 20895

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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NEXT KHS MEETING
TUESDAY, October 3rd

KENSINGTON'S GASOLINE
ALLEY – Remembering the
Hot Rods and Race Cars!
Author Cynthia Monroe
Town Hall, Lower Level
3710 Mitchell Street

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 KHS and help support local history.

Annual dues January 1st through December 31st

Renew Membership (See label above for “paid through date.”)

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)