



About Town

The Kensington Historical Society Newsletter

UPCOMING KHS MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

A SHOCKING TALE, and YOU ARE THERE!

Learn history as Michael Robinson takes on the persona of Washington DC's Superintendent of Police Almarin Cooley Richards. Superintendent Richards was involved in the election of 1860 as a member of the "Wide Awake", a group of enthusiastic Lincoln supporters. During the inauguration of 1861 he rode alongside the new President's carriage as a parade marshal. A good Republican, he received a patronage position as a financial clerk at the post office shortly thereafter and became an Alderman for the 3rd Ward in 1862. When President Lincoln needed a new Chief of Police in 1864 he rewarded Richards' loyalty with that position. So it was that he attended the play "Our American Cousin" when he learned that General Grant and President Lincoln would be there and was present when Lincoln was shot.

Please enjoy the show and bring your questions for Michael Robinson! Mr. Robinson has thoroughly researched early Washington to bring you this realistic portrayal of an eyewitness to history.

We will meet in the Octagon Room of the St. Paul's Methodist Church, directly across from Town Hall parking lot. Enter the Octagon Room from the Mitchell Street doors.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This winter has been a particularly busy time for many KHS members. We're sorry that we couldn't make our annual holiday party happen, but we promise that June will bring a grand party celebrating the Society's 40th Anniversary! Our volunteers continue to work in the archives spending Thursdays answering requests for historical information and sorting our photograph collection. We welcome anyone who would like to come in and spend a few hours with us - either short term or on a regular basis.

Our stalwart volunteers continue to create displays for the lobby of the Town Hall. Please stop in to see Contemplating Winter, the latest display in the Town Hall Lobby created by Sigrid Doherty and Mary Buckingham. As with all of our displays in the glass case, this incorporate only the toys from the Isabelle Barr Toy Collection! In addition, we have a photographic display from the 2016 January blizzard taken by Erin Doherty. The Town Hall is open from 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. daily.



TIME TO RENEW for 2017!

If your label does not show 2017, it's time to renew your membership. Use the form in this newsletter, or use PayPal on our website: www.kensingtonhistory.org. Thank you for your continued support!

MAY 2nd KHS MEETING

THE HISTORY OF ROCKVILLE PIKE: A 300 YEAR JOURNEY

We're happy to welcome Eileen McGuckian, historian and President of Montgomery County Preservation (MPI), as she presents the story of a local road traveled, at some point in time, by everyone in Kensington. Using historic and contemporary photographs, she will present a slide show tour of the Rockville Pike from its beginnings as a Native American path to the "Golden Mile" of the County.

We will meet in the Town Hall, Lower Level, at 7:00 p.m. for cookies, conversation and coffee. Our program begins at 7:30.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET ??

The shopping center at Connecticut and Knowles now includes a Gallery of Historic Photos. We've been working with Neil Burka in our Archives to select photos, displaying a sense of Kensington's history. He has created a super-size gallery on the north side of the Hardware City building, with one photo on the front of the Urgent Care building. Please come by and enjoy them.

Highlights from the KHS ANNUAL MEETING
November 15, 2016, Kensington Town Hall
By KHS Secretary Angela Mickalide, PhD, MCHES

President Julie O'Malley called the Kensington Historical Society Annual Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 25 members of the KHS and community members were in attendance. President O'Malley reviewed the budget status and noted that operating funds are generated through membership dues, sponsorships for the Annual Calendar and Summer Concert Series, the Ditto Group's Train Show donation, and sales of KHS-branded items. Expenses incurred include materials for the archives, calendar printing, newsletter printing and mailing, and concert series honoraria for the 17 summer concerts.

KHS has received a grant from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for a Mobile Website, which will include the Walking Tours, but reimbursement for its design and execution is pending its completion early next year[2017]. We are extremely grateful to our Kensington NPR contributors – Rob Sachs, who has produced our audio portions and to Allison Aubrey, for her narrations. The audience was treated to a preview clip, which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Barbara Scharman spoke on behalf of Diane Meyers, the new KHS membership chair. She reported that there are 142 KHS members. To date, 91 have paid their dues for 2017. We will be working to keep our members – and please stay tuned as we roll out new recruitment ideas. Dues are needed as we will not receive the funds from the grant until after we have paid the contractor, Actualize Studio.

Vice President Janet Barnes introduced the evening's speaker, Ralph Buglass, who is a volunteer with the Montgomery County Historical Society. His presentation was entitled, "Still Standing: One and Two Room Schoolhouses in Montgomery County and the Stories They Tell About the Early Days of Public Education." As a retired communications professional, Mr. Buglass is a volunteer docent at the restored one-room Kingsley Schoolhouse (1893-1935) in Clarksburg, Maryland, which is open April to October on the first Sunday afternoon of the month. This experience sparked his deep interest in the early days of public education in Montgomery County. His enthusiastic coverage of the subject, complete with numerous photos, was thoroughly enjoyed. Especially interesting was the history of the local Ken-Gar School, a Rosenwald School – still standing – which was renovated and recently dedicated as the Leonard D. Jackson Ken-Gar Center on Plyers Mill Road.

After a lengthy question and answer session, the meeting was adjourned.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME !

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. Help us with scanning and sorting our files, as well as photographs.

DONATIONS:

"Kensington From 1945 to 1957 From Childhood Memories," written and donated by Nancy Shoemaker Werner.

An issue of the Montgomery County Sentinel, November 30, 1804, donated by Elisenda Sola-Sole.

Saturday Evening Post Magazines, the Washington Star Magazine, the Sunday Washington Star newspaper - all from 1952, donated by Skip Farmer.

Generous financial donations from Jean Gerrish, and from Neil Burka.

TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

There are several tax credit programs for the rehabilitation of historic properties in Montgomery County. To be eligible for the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Tax Credit, the property must be listed on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. These properties may also be eligible for state and federal tax credits along with properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT:

To encourage the restoration and preservation of historic properties, the Montgomery County Council passed legislation (Chapter 51, Article VI) in 1984 creating a historic preservation tax credit program for county-designated historic properties. Owners of property listed in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation are eligible to receive a credit for documented expenses for exterior maintenance, restoration or preservation work. The tax credit is applied towards County real property taxes. On July 16, 2013, the Montgomery County Council passed Bill 14-13, which amended the tax law (Chapter 52, Article VI) related to the percentage of improvement costs on a historic property from 10% to 25% for eligible work completed after January 1, 2013. Eligible work includes repairs, restoration, or preservation of exterior features of designated structures. Examples of eligible projects include, but are not limited to: painting, repairing roofs or windows or replacing them in-kind, repairing architectural trim or ornament, uncovering and repairing original siding, repointing brick or stone foundations or chimneys, restoring a documented feature such as a dormer or porch that was previously altered or removed, repairing and maintaining outbuildings such as barns and garages. NOTE: New construction and interior work are not eligible.

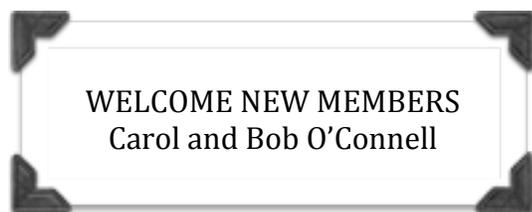
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The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviews tax credit applications, certifies that project work is eligible for tax credits, and forwards recommendations to the County Department of Finance for approval. The approved tax credit is applied to a property owner's tax bill. Any unused portion of this tax credit may be carried forward for as many as five years.

[This material is taken from the montgomeryplanning.org website under the heading "Historic" and "Tax Credits" which includes more details and forms.)

All addresses listed within the Kensington Historic District are eligible. See <http://tok.md.gov/around-town/history/> and open "Addresses within the Historic District."



WARNER CIRCLE READING GARDEN

The Warner Circle Reading Garden Committee, made up of volunteers from the Kensington area, is partnering with Montgomery Parks to plan and implement this Reading Garden. It will be comprised of a meandering path in the area nearest to Noyes Library, with reading pods along the way, meant to engage the imagination and delight readers of all ages. This Reading Garden will be completed in phases, as funding permits. The initial phase is planned for spring 2017.

Volunteer your services as a member of the Warner Circle Garden Committee, or by contributing your service toward specific project needs (website help; fundraising; donation of materials and/or labor, and in the future, garden maintenance.) Contact Yvonne Gurney at ygurney1@verizon.net. To contribute a tax deductible monetary donation, see www.montgomeryparksfoundation.org, click on "Donate Now," and under Donation information choose "Designation: Other" and type in "Warner Circle Reading Garden")

Thanks for helping this community-oriented project grow.

LOCAL EVENTS:

FEBRUARY 25, 26 FREE GUIDED TOURS "A Walk in Father Henson's Footsteps" Noon to 3. Retrace the footsteps of Reverend Josiah Henson from his enslavement to escape on the Underground Railroad to freedom in Canada. Learn about his extraordinary life, which inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Screening of the documentary: The Search for Josiah Henson as Noon, 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. JOSIAH HENSON PARK, 11420 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda. Parking at the Aquatic Center, 5900 Executive Blvd. **FEBRUARY 26 SPOKEN WORD POETRY EVENT** 3:00 - 4:00 pm. Create and share your original poetry."Lyrical Rhythms: The Sounds of Freedom."

"**March 24th MPI AWARDS:** Montgomery Preservation Inc. is pleased to honor individuals and groups, who through personal or community efforts, made significant contributions to the preservation of Montgomery County's historic resources and landscapes. As you may recall, the Kensington community has received many of these awards over the years for sensitive additions and the rehabilitation of resources. This is your opportunity to see recent preservation projects in the county and join in celebrating the work of dedicated property owners, creative nonprofits, talented craftspeople architects, builders, and public servants. The program will be held this year at the Silver Spring B&O Train Station at 8100 Georgia Avenue on Friday, March 24. The reception starts at 6, with awards at 7 p.m. A donation is requested

April 23rd INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BOOK
Come to this amazing book fair! Be sure to look for the KHS Table and come by to say hello.

www.dayofthebook.com

When visiting the new NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, be sure to see the Jones-Hall-Sims house. Built by freed slaves about 1875 in Jonesville (near Poolesville), this home was moved in pieces and reassembled for the museum through the actions of Scott Whipple, head of Montgomery Planning's Historic Preservation section, and George McDaniel, who studied upper western Montgomery County black communities in the 1970s for Sugarloaf Regional Trails.

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, JennyCakes Bakery, Kensington Pharmacy, Knowles Printing Services;

SUPPORTERS: Ayoub N & H Carpet & Rugs, Baklava Couture Artisan Bakery, David Gregg's Tree Service & Garden Maintenance, Edward Jones/Paul Sexton - Financial Advisor, Frankly...Pizza, GALA Artisan Jewelry & Gifts, Hardware City, Jubilee Association of MD, Kensington Caboose, Kensington Pizza & Kabob, Kensington Row Bookshop, K Town Bistro, Kyle Richards Realtor, Logan's Automotive, Moose, Green & Korom, PA, NiMaSte YOGA, On the Purple Couch, 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, February 21st
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE!!
Mike Robinson at President
Lincoln's Shooting!

St. Paul's Methodist Church
Octagon Room, Mitchell Street door
7:00 p.m. Coffee & Conversation
7:30 p.m. Program

TIME TO RENEW !

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)