THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON'S

AROUND TOWN JOURNAL

APRIL 2009

3710 MITCHELL STREET, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND
301-949-2424 FAX: 301-949-4925 WWW.TOK.MD.GOV

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

M-NCPPC Sector Plan Open Office Hours
Wed., April 22 6:30—8:00 pm
With Fred Boyd,
County Planner

Town Council Meeting
Mon., April 27 @ 7 pm
The 2010 Budget will be presented.

Green Day Celebration / Shred-It Day / Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration
Sat., May 9 from 10 am-1 pm

Town Council Meetings
Mon., May 11 and
Tues., May 26 @ 7 pm

Coffee with the Mayor
Tues., May 19 @ 8-9 am

Kensington Arts Theatre (KAT) Production
May 8-23

Memorial Day
Mon., May 25
Town Offices Closed

All meetings and events located in Town Hall
3710 Mitchell Street

CELEBRATE "GREEN DAY" IN KENSINGTON

Saturday, May 9th, 10 am - 1 pm

The Towns of Kensington & Garrett Park and GPCAN* present a FREE earth-friendly and fun-filled event for the entire family.

- **Shred-It Truck.** Fight Identity Theft. Residents may bring up to 4 boxes of papers for free shredding
- **Recycling Truck** for scrap metal, clothing and textiles
- Visit with the **State Forrester** and a **Master Gardener**
- **Demonstrations and presentations** on home efficiency, Green living, home energy audits, solar PV and Green remodeling and building, and more…
- **Vendors and exhibits showcasing** Green products, services and ideas to help $ave money and our natural resources
- **Fun activities** for the kids including flower plantings and nature crafts (make a gift for Mother's Day on Sunday)
- **Give-aways:** Compost bins, lawn & leaf bags, trash bags, biodegradable doggie waste bags, seeds and more
- **Entertainment** throughout the event

Volunteers Welcome!

This event combines our Annual Earth Day/Arbor Celebration organized for more than 15 years by Louise Hamilton. Questions? Call Louise at 301-949-2424

All activities will be in and around Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD

***Garrett Park Conservation Action Network**

AN UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR:

Sector Plan: *Thanks to County Councilmember Ervin's Chief of Staff, I was alerted to the consideration of a delay of our Sector Plan by Park & Planning. I was able to attend the meeting where the Sector Plan was discussed and, thanks to Councilmembers Ervin, Nancy Floreen, and Mike Knapp (as well as the entire Council who I individually contacted), our Sector Plan will remain on schedule. After the Councilmembers spoke on our behalf, Dr. Hanson promised to keep the plan on track.*

Konterra and Parking Lot: *The contract to have the environmental update performed was signed and work on this will begin shortly. Should the results prove satisfactory, we will move forward.*

FY 2010 Budget: *It is now being prepared and will be presented at the April 27th Council meeting. The public hearing is at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, May 26th (after Memorial Day and 20-day public review opportunity).*

Merchants & Business Owners: *There was a good conversation with attendees at a meeting on April 9th. The Town's public relation's firm, Maier & Warner, presented the marketing website which is scheduled to "go live" within the next few months.*

Coffee with the Mayor: *The date of the morning coffees has been varied so as many people can attend as possible. On Saturday, April 4th, several issues were discussed with the residents who joined me. Please bring your specific concerns and questions to the next Coffee on Tuesday, May 19th from 8-9 a.m.*

Planter Boxes: *I hope everyone is enjoying the springtime renewal of flowers in our newly-built structures around the tree wells along Howard Avenue. Thanks to our Crew & Town Manager for their construction and Louise Hamilton and Jason Swain for the landscaping. The merchants And business owners have promised to help keep them looking fresh and pretty.*

Mayor Peter C. Fosselman and Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin at the Town Council meeting on March 23, 2009. Ms. Ervin represents District 5, which includes the communities of Takoma Park, Wheaton, Kensington, and parts of Chevy Chase and Silver Spring. To contact Ms. Ervin or keep up with her Council activities, go to:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ervtmpl.asp?url=/content/council/mem/Ervin_v/index.asp

Refuse Collection Survey: *This was first sent out via our Town Listserve and is now included in this Journal issue. Please fill out only one per resident. I look forward to hearing from you before April 30th. This survey is meant as a means to gain a "flavor" of the Town regarding trash, brush and recycling pick-up. No decisions will be made without ample public input.* *See page 4.*

And speaking of refuse: *Biodegradable bags for cleaning up after dogs will be available soon in our parks. Please take one from the dispenser and dispose of its contents properly.*

REMEMBER: All dogs must be on leashes while off private property. Voice command is no longer legal means to control canines.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/ LANDSCAPING REPORT MARCH 2009

Parking Violations:
5 parking citations have been issued (2 for parking within 5 feet of driveway; 1 for residential permit only; 3 for no parking anytime).

Letters sent to:
10321 Summit Ave. - parking on grass
10308 Conn. Ave. – parking on grass
10504 Conn. Ave. – dumpster screening
10632 Conn. Ave. – dumpster screening
10414 Detrick Ave. – dumpster screening
10625 Conn. Ave. – remove temporary sign
10592 Metropolitan Ave. – sent sign ordinance
10210 Frederick Ave. – bag and tie yard waste
10414 Detrick Ave. – new sign/need permit
3947 Washington St. – sidewalk snow removal
10546 Wheatley St. – remove trash from backyard

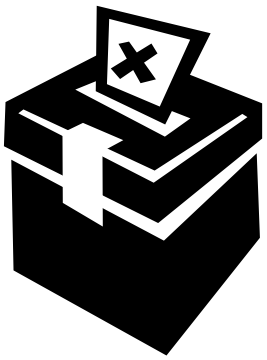
Trees/Landscaping:
Removal – Cherry, Detrick Ave. & Baltimore St.
Maple, 3507 Kensington Pkwy.
Oak, 10204 Frederick Ave.
Bradford Pear, 10116 Kens. Pkwy.
Stump Removal – 18

In Process: Spring Planting 15-18 trees
Flower Boxes on Howard Ave.
Reinhardt Park-Mulching tree, picnic table and bench areas.
Planters along Conn. Ave. and Plyers Mill Rd.

Recent Building Permit

Fence at 3602 Kent Street

TOWN ELECTIONS JUNE 1, 2009



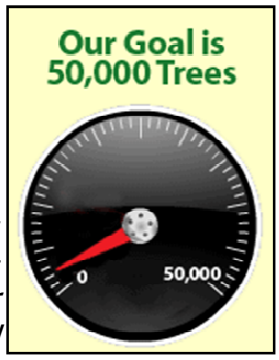
Two Council Member positions will be open as of June, 2009. The two-year terms of Councilmembers Mary Donatelli and Sharon Scott will conclude at that time. Elections for their seats will be held at Town Hall from 6:00-9:00 pm on June 1, 2009

Nominations: Persons may be nominated for elective office in the Town by filing a certificate of nomination at the Town Office by 4:00 p.m. on or before the second Monday in May (May 11, 2009). Voter Qualifications: Every person who is a citizen of the U.S., at least 18 years of age, has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days and is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter shall be a qualified voter of the Town and shall be entitled to vote at any or all Town elections.

Voter Registration: Registration by a Town resident with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be deemed registration for Town elections. Applications for such registration must be received at the County Board on or before April 27, 2009. Please note: you must be registered by the County with a Town address. Town citizens, who do not register to vote with the County, may register with the Town at the Town office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town registration books close on May 26, 2009

Absentee Voting: Any qualified and registered voter may apply at the Town office during regular office hours for an absentee ballot if he or she cannot be present at an upcoming Town election.

A LETTER FROM GOVERNOR O'MALLEY:



PLANT AND BE COUNTED!

Forests are our most strategically important natural resource. Trees protect water quality, clean our air and provide wildlife habitat. One large tree can eliminate 5,000 gallons of storm-water runoff each year, and well placed trees can help reduce energy costs by 15 to 35 percent.

Trees also enhance our quality of life, beautifying neighborhoods and highways, providing sound barriers and shade, and helping increase property values.

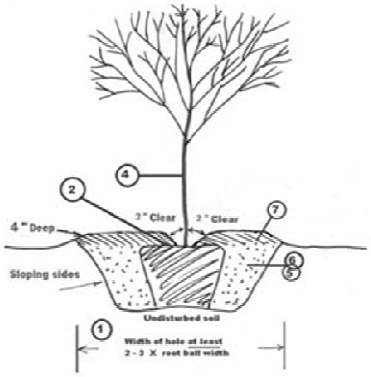
Today the State of Maryland is partnering with businesses, communities and citizens like you to help fund and plant new tree cover. Our State agencies are working to plant 1 million new trees by 2011, and we're asking private citizens to join us by planting 50,000 trees by 2010….

http://www.trees.maryland.gov/

Governors tree coupon

Working together as One Maryland, we can not only preserve our remaining tree cover but grow new trees to create a smarter, greener State for our planet and for future generations.

Governor Martin O'Malley



Call Town Hall for advice on tree planting or ask a State Forrester at our Green Day Festival on Saturday, May 9th.

REFUSE COLLECTION SURVEY

The letter below and the survey on the next page was emailed in early April to all everyone our Town Listserve. If you did not respond, or did not receive a survey, please fill out this one and return to Town Hall before April 30th. Only one survey per resident. Thank you.

A Letter from the Mayor:

Dear Residents,

We are now working on the Town's 2010 budget and I would like as much resident input as possible. Kensington's largest source of revenue comes from a portion of the State income tax (Form 503) and we expect it to be less than previous years. My priority as Mayor, is to insure the services and amenities we enjoy continue. To do so, we need to review every expenditure to consider cost-cutting opportunities.

One area that consumes a large portion of our budget is trash, brush, recycling and bulk pick-up. Another consideration, although difficult to quantify, is the environmental impact of having the trucks on the roads several times per week.

The Town owns two trash trucks, a 1996 GMC and a 1994 Ford. Due to their age, we anticipate the need to purchase new or used equipment shortly. These will cost upwards of $100,000 each. The public works personnel costs are approximately $300,000 per year, with annual salaries and benefits rising significantly. In addition, the Town pays approximately $44,000 per year to the County for disposal fees. (The Town is contracted with Allied Waste Services for recycling pick-up, which is roughly $52,000 per year).

Please take the time to fill out this survey. Your responses will help the Council and me make decisions regarding our services.

RETURN SURVEY TO TOWN HALL BY APRIL 30th.
ONLY ONE SURVEY PER RESIDENT.

REFUSE COLLECTION SURVEY continued from previous page

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March 9, 2009 Closed Session, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Donatelli, McMullen, Scott, and Thompson, Town Attorney Suellen Ferguson, and Town Manager Sanford Daily were present.

Council Member Donatelli moved to close the meeting to discuss a legal matter relating to the Konterra Property with the Town Attorney at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fourth Amendment to the Real Estate Reciprocal Exchange Agreement, the Easement Agreement between Konterra Limited Partnership and Montgomery County, and the License & Construction Agreement between Montgomery County and the Town of Kensington were discussed. No Actions were taken.

Town Meeting, Minutes 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Donatelli, McMullen, and Thompson, Town Manager Sanford Daily, Mayor's Assistant Claudia Donnelly, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. Council Member Scott was necessarily absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed. The recent passing of Paul Takemoto's father was noted.

The Mayor reported he testified for the Transportation Trust Fund Protection Act; met with the Town Manager and Safeway representatives to resolve some issues, Safeway agreed to screen the HVAC system on the roof in matching brick amongst other site solutions; testified on the Liquor Bill; testified on the Sign Ordinance Bill; and noted upcoming events including the West Howard Avenue Meeting and the Sector Plan Meeting.

The Council concurred to have the Mayor explore enhancing Joseph's Park, forming a Green Task Force, and adding a north side tennis court possibly at St. Paul Park or N. Kensington Parkway.

Council Member McMullen reported he attended a preliminary meeting at Kensington Cabin with MNCPPC.

Council Member Donatelli reported she had an Arts Council Meeting and is working on establishing an Arts District which is needed in order to apply for grants.

Council Member Thompson reported he attended the West Howard Avenue Meeting and suggested the County needs to expand the redesign study to include the next block. He has also noted a representative from the Fire Department will be contacting the Mayor about coordinating the County's Annual Fire Convention with the Labor Day Parade.

The Town Manager reported he has made street name sign corrections; he is working with SHA on upgrading the intersection at Knowles Avenue; he is working on obtaining a sidewalk easement from the property owner at St. Paul and Plyers Mill; and reported income tax is estimated to be $200,000 less than budgeted.

The Heritage Tax Credit Bill HB513/SB725 was discussed. The Council concurred to send a letter in support.

The Town received a certificate from the County Executive for the Town's participation in the Yes Montgomery Can Program.

A resident expressed concern over the cost of the proposed parking lot on Metropolitan Avenue and the cost of the reconfiguration of Montgomery Avenue and Kensington Parkway. A resident suggested better signage be used at Montgomery Avenue instead of the reconfiguration. The Mayor noted the parking lot was initiated by the previous administration and approved over a year ago by the current administration. The majority of the funding is coming from the County. He also noted the reconfiguration of the intersection had already been discussed at numerous meetings and the Council concurred to do the reconfiguration of Montgomery Avenue and Kensington Parkway in the next budget year, should funding permit.

A resident suggested the Town investigate stimulus money for projects in the Town.

Continued on next page

Continued from page 6

Town Council Meeting Minutes continued—March 9, 2009

The Konterra property parking lot was discussed. The Mayor reported a closed session was held to confer about legal issues regarding the Konterra parking lot with the Town Attorney prior to the Town meeting. It was noted the Town is still working on indemnification of environmental hazards which may be available from the State. The Town Manager explained how any income received from the parking lot would be split between the County and the Town. Council Member Thompson read the Resolution to be approved by the Council. See Council Actions.

Council Actions

Council Member Thompson moved to approve the minutes from February 23, 2009. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Scott was not present.

Council Member Thompson moved to pass resolution 2009-04 approving a fourth amendment to a real estate reciprocal exchange agreement between Montgomery County and Konterra Limited Partnership, an easement agreement between Montgomery County, Konterra Limited Partnership and the Town of Kensington, and a license agreement between Montgomery County and the Town of Kensington involving the Konterra Parking lot. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Scott was not present.

Council Member McMullen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. The motion passed unanimously 3 to 0. Council Member Scott was not present.

Kensington Kids Corner

It's time for baseball!

Drawing by Matthew Lewton, age 7,
A Kensington resident and 1st grader at
Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School

Do you have a short story, poem or picture created by one of our own young residents? Please send it in to Town Hall for next month's *Around Town Journal.*

BRING YOUR RECYCLABLES TO "GREEN DAY IN KENSINGTON" ON MAY 9TH

Clothes ☯ Shoes (keep pairs together)
Sheets ☯ Drapes ☯ Towels
Belts ☯ Handbags
Pieces of material larger than 14" X 14"

ALSO: Bring small metal items

- ☯ Old irons, unknown keys
- ☯ weird dusty hardware, nuts, bolts,
- ☯ ratty pots and pans, wire hangars...

FIGHT IDENTITY THEFT! SHRED-IT!
Bring up to 4 boxes of papers to be shredded.
(Help unloading car will be provided).

Help Make Kensington Greener
Here's $25 to Start

Governor Martin O'Malley has challenged all residents and businesses to plant 1 million new trees in Maryland by 2011 as part of a project to make our state greener. Details on page 4.

http://www.trees.maryland.gov/ **Governors tree coupon**

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To Our Kensington Neighbors