



ABOUT TOWN

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

PO Box 453, Kensington MD 20895

September 2011

A Tribute to Ann Pfautz
Julie O'Malley reflects on Ann's contribution to Kensington and KHS.

Warner Circle Update
John Doherty brings us up to date on the latest news.

This and That...
Free Summer Concerts; Kensington T-shirts; Recent KHS Donations and more

KHS Elections Coming!
KHS nominating committee is seeking officers for next year.

Model Train Event
On Sept. 10-11 at the Town Hall. Gary & Diana Ditto and the Town of Kensington sponsor this fundraiser for Noyes & KHS.

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KVFD Dedicates 9/11 Memorial Garden

By Katie Rangos

June 25, 2011 was a beautiful sunny day for the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) to dedicate its new 9/11 Memorial Garden. Surrounded by its latest ladder truck and the Bell of Remembrance, the 16-foot beam from the 91st and 95th floor of the World Trade Center and

the limestone slab from the Pentagon were proudly dedicated by a roster of speakers including both the President and Chief of the KVFD, Mayor Fosselman, and FBI agent Robert McFeely.

What I thought of for an instant though was what always strikes me when I think of September 11, 2001 and that is where I was that day. I saw the Pentagon on fire from the 14th Street Bridge on my way to work. The next day when I went to work, it was still smoldering. However, here I was this perfect day at the dedication of this event listening to speaker after speaker. I did not know that the KVFD were some of the first to respond to the tragic event at the World Trade Center. And it seems they did not stop giving. They have also donated to the families of the 9/11 survivors.

And now they were dedicating this Memorial Garden for the Town to visit and perhaps just sit and contemplate; a vision come to completion. The Department was very lucky to be aided by Steve Heidenberger, president of Heidenberger Construction. Steve brought together a group of over 20 contractors that volunteered their time and supplies (saving about \$500,000 which the memorial would have cost). Steve was given a specially made KVFD construction hat and made an honorary member. The dedication ceremony was concluded by the ringing of the Bell of Remembrance, a 3500-pound bell engraved with the names of those firefighters killed on 9/11, brought here special for the occasion. That was an experience to be remembered.

When I drive by the Memorial now, I always find myself glancing at it. Not only is it an awareness of 9/11, but also of the good that is done in our community. [Editor's note: Additional information can be viewed at www.kvfd.org.]

Above Photo: Ed Tenney MCVFRA Photographer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11 JOAN PAULIN DAVIS on Growing Up in Kensington

We are delighted to present Joan Paulin Davis to speak at the October Kensington Historical Society meeting. She will share with us memories from the late 1940's to 1960, when her family lived on Washington Street at the corner of Connecticut Avenue. At that time, the lower garden of her home was a wonderful neighborhood gathering place. We'll hear about community events, local shops, and activities at Noyes. Come early for refreshments and share your reflections on life in Kensington.

The Kensington Historical Society's October meeting is on Tuesday, the 11th; refreshments at 7, program at 7:30, followed by the business meeting. The meeting is open to all and will be held at the Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, lower level.

KHS GARDEN TOUR

In June, KHS held a very successful Garden Tour. It was a lovely day with food and drink available at the starting point, Flinn Park. Special thanks to the six families who opened their gardens: Gloria & Jeff Capron, Margaret & Jeff Bugler, Alison & John Oppenheim, Angie and Stuart Freeman, Sheila & Scott Dinn, and Claudia & Jack Gaffey!

Each garden had a distinct style and best of all, the gardeners shared their tips for their success! We also extend our appreciation to the KHS planning committee which included Chair Detta Voesar, Elaine Kolodny, Janet Barnes, and Sheila Dunne. They were aided by a significant number of Society volunteers serving as "greeters."

And of course, we are indebted to all who attended!

CR Zone Amendments Delay Sector Plan

By Julie O'Malley

The Draft Sector Plan for the Kensington area was approved by the Planning Board in June. The entire Draft Plan is on the Maryland-National Capital Planning website:

www.montgomeryplanning.org.

Type in Kensington Sector Plan June 2011 FINAL to see the approved Draft Plan which is being recommended to the County Council which will then hold public hearings and worksessions in the fall.

The Town and County Councils rightfully want to wait until the County's new zoning amendments are approved before the County reviews our Draft Plan. The two new zones, Commercial Residential Town (CRT) and Commercial Residential Neighborhood (CRN), will be applied to our Draft Sector Plan. They have been crafted by the Planning Board and sent to the County Council for review. This summer the Planning, Housing and Economic Development committee (PHED – Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal, and Marc Elrich) held numerous meetings reviewing and

refining the new zones. The public has been involved in these meetings with comments sent in and presented from groups and individuals in Takoma Park, Wheaton, Chevy Chase and Kensington – the areas where the new zones would be applied in the Sector Plan process. The next PHED committee meeting on this will be held at 9:30 AM on September 19th in Rockville.

At the same time, the Planning Board has been working on Urban Design Guidelines, covering many aspects of future development for Kensington. They were presented to the Town's Revitalization Committee, presented at the July 22nd Town Meeting, and then presented at the July 28th Planning Board meeting. A copy of these Draft Guidelines is available on www.tok.md.gov and in the Town Office (301-949-2424). Comments and suggestions are welcomed by the Planning Board staff, as these Guidelines are being revised for a second hearing in September. The Planning Board felt that several items belonged in the Sector Plan itself, and will recommend that changes

be made to the Draft Sector Plan when the County holds their public hearings and worksessions on the Draft Sector Plan in the fall.

This process continues with the main delay being caused by the County's creation of these new zones. Your emails to the Planning Board and the County Council are still making a difference. For the Planning Board staff write: fred.boyd@montgomeryplanning.org or MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org; and to address all of the County Council: county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov or individually with the member's name: councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov.

This is your Town, which many of us hope to live in for years to come. The process of adopting a new Sector Plan is a complicated one which has been an involved process. You have been asked to partake in planning for the future of Kensington. Please read these documents carefully, understand what the changes will mean to you and your community, and share your thoughts with the County Council.

Society News

By Julie O'Malley

KHS has purchased signs for our Saturday Morning Concert Series. Barbara Scharman worked with Laura-Leigh Palmer of a.s.a.p. graphics to come up with our new design. Hope you notice them!

We are actively looking for a few good members who would like to become involved with a newly forming ARCHIVES COMMITTEE. We have several members and are looking for a few more. We would be grateful for one person who can manage our digital files. We also need identification help with our photo collection. This summer we met with the Garrett Park History Committee established by the Town of Garrett Park. We are hoping to have a joint workshop in the fall to further both our efforts. Please contact Barbara Scharman (301-946-8132) to get more information or to volunteer. We will post updates on www.kensingtonhistory.org.

We have enjoyed the volunteer efforts of Mario Corolla over the summer and wish him well in college. We continue to appreciate the volunteer time that archivist Karen King is devoting to cataloguing some of the 1901 waybills found in the Train Station Attic and donated to the Society at the time of the Station's renovation in 1991. We would be happy to have more volunteers to help with this project.

Donations have made possible the creation of a plaque for Lorraine Kennedy and it has been placed in the Clum-Kennedy Garden. A dedication date has not been set.

A Tribute to Board Member Ann Pfautz

By Julie O'Malley

This spring the Kensington Historical Society lost a dear friend and a very dedicated member with Ann Pfautz' passing. She was our Archives Chair working as coordinator, filer, researcher, maintaining a service to the community by protecting its historical records. She was committed to holding the Archives open on Friday mornings for the past four years and always greeted visitors with answers, and her own questions! She was a great supporter of KHS, of Kensington, and its shops. Many will miss her wave hello as she zipped through town in her wheelchair. Thank you Ann, for your contribution to the Kensington Historical Society.

Warner Circle Update *Parks Staff Relocation Questioned*

By John Doherty

At a hearing July 28, the County Planning Board sent a preliminary facilities plan for Warner Circle Park and Manor back to the parks staff for review.

Newly-appointed board member Norman Dreyfuss questioned a proposal to build an annex behind the historic Warner Manor in Kensington to house parks department planning, stewardship and archeology staff.

Dreyfuss said he supports demolition of a nursing home wing added in 1955 to the home of Kensington founder Brainard Warner, and also preservation and rehabilitation of the original 1894 manor, park and carriage house.

However he balked at the proposed new addition, suggesting the staff, currently operating out of leased quarters, could find cheaper space elsewhere.

In the meantime, project planner Julie Mueller said after the hearing she has received permission to continue a contract with Bell Architects through the demolition phase and re-closing of the manor walls while the staff relocation issue is reviewed and demolition permits are sought.

The property has been vacant since it was acquired by the parks department in 2006, and town residents adjoining the manor told the board they hope it can be rehabilitated and occupied by caretaker or other staff as soon as possible.

CALENDARS

Our brand new, hot off the press 2012 calendar, *Fashion-Forward Kensington*, will be available at the KHS Labor Day table. Free to members and \$5.00 for additional copies.

Contact Detta Voesar 301-949-1059 for info.

SATURDAY FREE SUMMER CONCERTS CONTINUE THRU OCTOBER 1!



TIME: 10:00 to 11:00 FREE

PLACE: Howard Avenue Park across from the Train Station & Farmers' Market

August 27th ~ Silver Creek ~ country, ragtime, folk, fiddle, Hawaiian...

Sept. 3rd ~ Banjo Man Frank Cassel ~ folk, bluegrass, & original music for all ages

Sept. 10th ~ Rita Clarke & the Naturals ~New Orleans rhythm & blues

Sept. 17th ~ The Garrett Park Musicians' Club ~ eclectic

Sept. 24th ~ Ruthie Logsdon & Greg Hardin (of Ruthie and the Wranglers) ~ Americana country

Oct. 1st ~ The Scrub Pines ~ Americana roots

Kensington T-Shirts for Sale

Long Sleeve KENSINGTON T-SHIRTS



will be available at the Labor Day Parade KHS table and at the ALL ABOARD for KENSINGTON weekend Sept 10th and 11th. The shirts have the logo "Where the Train Still Stops and the People Still Walk." \$20 ~ adult sizes small to XXL. Sorry, no children's sizes yet.

KHS WELCOMES

the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department as a new member!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the KHS bylaws, the Nominating Committee will be putting together a slate of names for nomination at the October Meeting for the next calendar year. If you are interested in serving as an Officer of the KHS (please check the website for a listing of Officer positions), please email Leanne Pfautz (leanne.pfautz@americanbar.org) or Steve Cohen (nehoc@cavtel.com). Serving on the KHS Board is a great opportunity to make a difference in protecting Kensington's rich and unique history.

DONATIONS

How Old Is This House?, by Hugh Howard from the Kensington Row Bookshop

Monetary donation toward the new concert signs from Jim Mathias

Photographs of 3908 Baltimore Street from Jeff and Kathi Buss

REMINDER

The Kensington Historical Society is a 501 C3 and gladly accepts donations to support the Concert Series and the Archives!

Kensington Historical Society
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Kensington, MD 20895

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KHS MEETING
Tuesday, October 11, 2011

JOAN PAULIN DAVIS
on Growing Up in Kensington

7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Presentation followed by the
business meeting

Kensington Town Hall/Armory
3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD

ALL ABOARD KENSINGTON!

September 10th & 11th will be a wonderful family weekend to follow Labor Day! This year marks the 120th Anniversary of our Kensington Train Station! Therefore, we are delighted to announce that the NATIONAL CAPITAL TRACKERS will be bringing the action of their model 0 train display, stretching nearly 36 by 72 feet, to the Town Hall through the sponsorship of the Ditto Group and the Town of Kensington. The display will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 11:30 to 5:00. (Starting right after the KHS Saturday Concert on Howard Avenue ~ see info elsewhere in this issue.) The Historical Society is adding to your fun with a performance by Matthew Dodd on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 at the Town

Hall. He will present through song and story what it was like to be a rail splitter, track layer, passenger, engineer, brakeman or switchman or railroader's wife and child in the days of steam trains.

All proceeds will benefit the Kensington Historical Society and Noyes Children's Library. The all inclusive entrance fee is \$5 for adults/\$2 for children/\$10 for a family. Your hand will be stamped for reentry to the display. Tickets may be available in advance. Call 301-949-0489 or check www.kensingtonhistory.org for updates.

We thank Gary and Diana Ditto for bringing this fabulous family event to Kensington!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Not only are there committees such as Newsletter, Socials, Archives, Preservation, Oral Histories, and Displays for which you can volunteer, you can also choose to make a one-time contribution.

LABOR DAY is your chance to fill a spot at the KHS table. Every year we need more volunteers to sell Calendars, T-shirts, Walking Tour booklets, to answer questions or tell about future programs. These can be one-or two-hour time slots from 9 until 4 and you will be paired up with a "regular." (Please respond to Julie O'Malley 240-460-2548 or info@kensingtonhistory.org.)

ALL ABOARD KENSINGTON is a brand new event in town. We are helping with the planning and the staffing and hope you'd like to also. Again KHS will need volunteers to help the Noyes Library Foundation volunteers man the ticket table and to help man the KHS display. We have two days to cover from 11:30 until 5 PM. (Please respond to Toni Ward 301-949-2853 or info@kensingtonhistory.org.)