



JUNE 2011

CALENDAR

4th of July Bike Parade

Monday, July
4th—10:00am

Town Offices Closed

Monday, July 4th

Warner Circle Meeting

Thursday, July
7th—6:30pm

Town Council Meeting/Public Hearing

Monday, July
11th—7:00pm
Info on Page 3

Revitalization Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July
12th—7:00pm

Please check the Town's website for up to date information.

www.tok.md.gov

MAYOR FOSSELMAN'S REMARKS ON THE 2011 TOWN ELECTION

On June 6th we had a Town Election with one of the highest voter participation in Kensington's history. I want to thank Barry Peoples and Stowe Teti for running and their willingness to serve our community. I would like to congratulate the frontrunners: Mackie Barch and John Thompson. I am looking forward to working with both of them over the next year.

It was clear the election was a referendum on our Sector Plan, the current Town Council and me; our style of government and the direction we have taken the Town. While it's OK to disagree and voice your opinion, it is not acceptable to make assumptions, uneducated pronouncements or create misinformation. I encourage folks to do their homework on municipal issues and ask questions – ask of those in the know – those who have been involved. We've had dozens of public meetings and dozens of news articles to read – not just on our Sector Plan, but on all the progress we have made over the last five years.

In efforts of outreach, I've decided to form a new committee – the *Mayor's Counsel*. A representative from every street will have a seat as well as several business members; and each of the Town Council Members. Meetings will be informal and quarterly with a primary goal to seek feedback on all Kensington issues. In addition, we will bring back some of the old traditions such as the *Town Picnic* and the one time, very successful *Pot Luck Dinner*. We will try some new community activities as well such as *Movie in the Park* and *Martinis with the Mayor*.

The Election conveyed Town spirit, some joyous times, but left some unpleasant feelings as well. It will take some time to rebound, but we have begun the healing process and must continue in a positive direction. Let's be a little nicer to each other and show respect. We are adults and must live together in what we all think is a fantastic community.

Peter Fosselman

Town Election

The Town held its annual Election on Monday, June 6th for two Council seats. Candidates were incumbent Mackie Barch, Barry Peoples, Stowe Locke Teti, and John Thompson. Congratulations to *Mackie Barch* and *John Thompson* who will be sworn in prior to the Town's Organizational meeting on July 11th. When the polls closed at 9pm, Election Judges Robin Watson, Jenny Smith and Spencer Harrill counted 519 ballots, including 86 absentee ballots. With 1,332 registered voters within the Town, the 519 ballots casts was a substantial increase from last year's 379 voters. This amounts to a 27% increase in voters from last year. This is the largest turnout for an Election since 2002 and highest number of Absentee Ballots cast. The Town would like to thank all of the candidates for running a spirited and competitive race. The residents of this Town were afforded an opportunity to choose among four very talented individuals. Anytime voters are given such an occasion to choose between candidates of a differing opinion in our democratic system, the better a government represents its people.

Official Election Results:

<i>Mackie Barch</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>Barry Peoples</i>	<i>230</i>
<i>Stowe Locke Teti</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>John Thompson</i>	<i>296</i>

A Letter to the Gazette Newspaper Editor - Kensington's Sector Plan

Changing the landscape in older communities is among the bigger challenges local leaders can undertake, but the results can make it very worthwhile. In Kensington, a town known for its antiques and history, making plans for the future means coming to grips with the past and the present. Taking the long view, Kensington has an enviable assortment of homes and styles, including Victorian architecture lovingly maintained. To many, the town is known for its good neighborhoods, schools, parks and antique shopping. There are holiday parades, theater productions, road races, artists' showings and a popular farmers' market. All good things and many of the right ingredients for the best communities.

So what's the problem? Is it the heavy commuter traffic on Connecticut Avenue that pours past every day, making it perilous for pedestrians? The shops hidden out of sight that struggle to attract shoppers? The lack of housing choices for aging residents or younger buyers? The glut of gas stations and repair shops?

When my fellow officials and I realized that plans for Kensington had gone 33 years without an update, we knew we had to make up for lost time. We pressed for an official review of the town's planning and zoning refining our sector plan and got it. We enlisted an outside group of planners, architects, lawyers and thinkers from the Urban Land Institute to give us an honest appraisal of the physical features of Kensington, and they produced a thorough and thoughtful report. We hired a strategic communications firm to assess outside opinion.

But nothing happens in Kensington without much citizen involvement, debate and deliberation. And that's a good thing, too. We've logged more than 60 public meetings and recorded more

(Continued on page 10)

Mayor and Council Ordinance Public Hearing

Ordinance O-04-2011 of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington, Maryland amending Chapter II, "Government and Administration", Article 3, "Public Ethics", by repealing and reenacting Sections 2-301, "Applicability"; 2-302, "Purpose and Policy", 2-303, "Definitions", 2-304, "Ethics Commission", 2-305, "Conflicts Of Interest", and 2-309 "Lobbying Disclosure"; deleting Sections 2-307, "Solicitation Or Acceptance Of Gifts", 2-308, "Financial Disclosure" and 2-310, "Violations and Penalties", and enacting new Sections 2-307, "Financial Disclosure – Local Elected Officials and Candidates to be Local Elected Officials", 2-308, "Financial Disclosure – Employees and Appointed Officials", 2-310, "Exemptions and Modifications", and 2-311, "Enforcement" to revise the Ethics Code. The Ordinance incorporates those changes required by the State of Maryland and the State Ethics Commission, including conflict of interest and financial disclosure provisions, and applies to Town elected and appointed officials, employees and candidates for elected office. Further, the law provides a procedure for the Ethics Commission's consideration of requests for advisory opinions and of complaints. The law provides the Ethics Commission with enforcement options and makes provision for a penalty. The Public Hearing is set for Monday, July 11th at 7:00pm. A full copy of the Ordinance is available at www.tok.md.gov.



TOWN PERMITS

Montgomery Avenue—Pepco

3505 Dupont Avenue—Porch

3606 Dupont Avenue—Fence

MAYOR

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COUNCIL

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Sean McMullen	Lydia Sullivan
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May 9, 2011 Council Summary

- Approved Minutes from April 25, 2011
- Adopted Fiscal Year 2012 Budget as amended.

May 9, 2011 7:00 pm

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Barch, Donatelli, McMullen and Sullivan, Town Manager Daily, Clerk Treasurer Engels and Assistant to the Town Manager Hoffman were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence observed.

The Public Hearing for a variance request for 3607 Washington Street was removed from the agenda because the exception language, referring to the existing dwelling combined setback, applied to the proposed addition; the Town attorney's opinion was the variance was not needed.

Julie O'Malley announced her candidacy for Council Member; she presented a Town advertisement and stated she didn't feel the Town was getting the public relations it was paying for and also questioned why there was no money in the budget for the website when the current newsletter/minutes were not on the site.

The Mayor reported the Public Hearing on the Sector Plan was held at Park and Planning on the 28th, approximately 60 people attended; he attended the Annual Jubilee Roast, Jubilee is located in the Town and helps serve people with mental disabilities, he is their newest board member; attended the 20th Annual Affordable Housing Conference in which the Town was recognized as a supporter; the Town and Coalition of Kensington Communities will be hosting a briefing on the 2011 General Assembly Session with the District 18 Delegation on May 18th at 7 p.m. in the Drill Hall; and a work session on the Sector Plan will be held at Park and Planning this Thursday.

Council Member Sullivan reported she spoke at the Planning Board Public Hearing about her concerns, another speaker presented a petition to lower the density, and she is interested in hearing the Planning Board's response at the next work session.

Council Member McMullen reported the HPC denied the Reynolds's application to demolish their property on Baltimore Street.

Council Member Donatelli stated she testified in support of the Sector Plan at the Hearing.

Council Member Barch stated he attended the Hearing on the Sector Plan and voted in favor of it; he thought the vast majority of people supported the plan overall; and stated that although there are differences in opinion, it is important to represent the facts.

Town Manager Daily reported street sweeping will be done throughout the Town next Monday and Tuesday, signs will be posted; basketball equipment is scheduled to be replaced at St. Paul Park; and announced the candidates that filed for Council Member were Mackie Barch, Julie O'Malley, Barry Peoples, Stowe Teti, and John Thompson. A candidate forum was tentatively scheduled for May 23rd.

The Council discussed the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The Mayor stated the Public Hearing was held on April 25th and the record was closed at 5 p.m. today.

Council Member Barch stated there were a lot of basic things around Town not being taken care of and suggested addressing this at a future meeting; he requested \$20,000 to \$30,000 in the budget for a comprehensive set of Design Guidelines and implementation of the Sector Plan; and requested funding in the budget for solar illumination of the Town entrance signs.

Council Member McMullen stated illumination of the signs could be funded from the capital expenditure line item for street light upgrades.

The Mayor suggested initially a nominal amount of money could be set aside for Design Guidelines; the staff could also research availability of grants; and the possibility of forming a community development corporation to obtain additional grants not available to the Town.

Council Member Sullivan expressed concern about adding a line item for Design Guidelines without fully investigating it.

The Mayor explained the Design Guidelines were part of the Sector Plan and would be completed; he thought it was important to show Park and Planning the Town's interest and commitment in helping with the Design Guidelines.

The Council agreed on the importance of the Design Guidelines; they compromised on allocating \$5,000 initially to a Design Guidelines line item under Commercial Revitalization in Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. See Council Actions.

Council Member McMullen stated he disagreed with taking public relations out of the budget but conditioned his approval of the line item on seeing regular reports on their activities. He also requested the Council be provided with more accounting information, such as invoices or a report, when spending funds on outside contractors, such as police and landscaping. This would help evaluate third party vendors and also help to determine whether some things could be done by the crew.

Council Member Barch agreed on the importance of quantifying what is being spent and the results achieved.

Council Member Sullivan stated, with her background in public relations, she was not pleased with the quality of work from the public relations firm and it would be helpful to have periodic reviews.

The Mayor stated it was important to receive frequent feedback, positive or negative, from the Council. He stated he had not heard any complaints about the public relations firm until now and had only received positive comments on their work including the successful Farmers' Market.

The Mayor informed the Council Kensington Parkwood Elementary School has approximately \$5,000 remaining in State Program Open Space money which the Town allotted to them years ago for playground improvements; in order to receive the money, it must be matched with 25% which will be allocated out of the park line item in the budget so their project can be completed. He also stated he has received requests for a children's water spray device, such as a "mushroom" style, at St Paul Park which will also be allocated out of the park line item in the budget.

Council Actions:

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from April 25, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to amend the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Budget to transfer \$5,000 from Non Departmental, Contingency line item to a new line item, Design Guidelines under Commercial Revitalization/General Government. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sullivan moved to amend the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget to remove the public relations firm; she stated there were talented people in Town that could do this for free, before creating a new tax for utilities discretionary spending should be reviewed, and also suggested ad hoc spending for public relations. The motion failed.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Ordinance No. O-01-2011 adopting the Town Operating and Capital budget for Fiscal Year 2012 and tax rates as amended with the transfer for \$5,000 from Contingency line item to Design Guidelines line item. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Barch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

May 23, 2011 Council Summary

- Approved Minutes from May 9, 2011
- Adopted Resolution R-07-2011 Supporting Capitol View Park Citizens Association's request to the County for a sidewalk along MD192.
- A Proclamation was presented to the Town's Poet Laureate Richard Rice
- A Candidate Forum was held after the Town Meeting

May 23, 2011 7:00pm

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Barch, Donatelli, McMullen and Sullivan, Town Manager Daily, Clerk Treasurer Engels and Assistant to the Town Manager Hoffman were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence observed.

Al Lacey reported on the Fawcett Street Apartment's informal candidate meeting which helped to get more Residents involved in the Town; and also thanked the five candidates for coming and explaining their views to Residents.

The Mayor thanked the District 18 Delegation for their event; thanked Assistant to the Town Manager Matt Hoffman and Kensington Arts Theatre for coordinating the sound system for the District 18 event along with this event; thanked all the candidates running; and thanked Doug Smith for volunteering to moderate the forum tonight.

Council Member Donatelli reported the Farmer's Market Sign is now complete with the arrow installed.

Council Member McMullen stated Town Manager Daily's weekly brief on staff activities is very helpful; requested police reports; and suggested extra patrol may be needed due to recent prank activity in Town.

Council Member Sullivan reported she attended the May 12th Work Session on the Sector Plan; testified before the County Council on the CR Zones in which she expressed concerns about various parts of the CR Zones including neighborhood compatibility, density, protection of master plans, regulatory review from the Planning Board, and review from neighboring property owners; and wished all the candidates well and thanked them for running.

The Mayor presented a Proclamation to Richard Rice for being the Town’s First Poet Laureate. Mr. Rice read one of his poems titled “Harp Music”.

A Resolution supporting Capitol View Park Citizens Association request of the County for a sidewalk along MD Route 192 was discussed. Town Manager Daily explained the sidewalk was not in Town and would not have any fiscal impact to the Town. Council Member Sullivan expressed concern on how it would affect their historic designation and requested the Council table it until it is researched. The Mayor explained their historic district will still be in place and if the sidewalk conflicts with their historic district rules and regulations they will not be allowed to build it. The Mayor noted the request came

from the newly elected Capitol View Board. Council Member McMullen noted the HPC did not take into account the Town’s decision in another issue and the Town should support the request of the citizens association which is acting on behalf of their citizens.

Council Actions:

Council Member Sullivan moved to approve the minutes from May 9, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Barch moved to approve Resolution No. R-07-2011 supporting the request of the Capitol View Park Citizens Association for the installation of a sidewalk along MD Route 192. The motion passed 3 to 1. Council Member Sullivan opposed the motion.

Council Member Barch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



The British Players Present the
47th Annual Old Time Music Hall

Please join the British Players for an evening of cabaret-style entertainment bursting with music and laughter, accompanied by the Palace Variety Orchestra.

Show Schedule:

June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25 at 8:00pm

June 18, 19, 25 at 2:30pm

Tickets are available by calling the Box Office at:
301-838-0042

www.BritishPlayers.org

At the Annual 2011 Day of the Book Festival the Town formally honored Mr. Richard Rice of Kensington as the Town's Official Poet Laureate. Many towns across the country honor local poets with this distinction as a way to offer the community a voice of expression, along with fostering a wider appreciation of the community as a whole. The Town is very thankful for Mr. Rice and he has agreed to submit poems for the Around Town Journal for us all to enjoy.

BECOMING

From a slow beginning
I am going from a writer for fun
To the responsibility of sharing my thoughts
Ideas and memories of the entire town.
Kensington is my pallet and my joy;
Sharing the various events, locales
And activities which occur in and around
This embracing community.

Bringing everything which I have been,
Now with humility sharing thoughts,
Dreams and excitement of this town;
Enriching the expressions of gathering,
Fellowship, history and growing into. . .
Togetherness not only for us individually.

As I step into new responsibilities, only one
Thing is asked for and hoped
Beyond all else; that we come together in unity for
building a brighter future for our town.

ANN PFAUTZ A PIONEER OF COURAGE

Born and raised in Kansas, strong in grace. . .
Courage and faith; you never waived
In commitment to your family or God;
Raising four children with your husband
Giving to them an Eternal education of
Love, hope and commitment; lived
Out before them and us.

A member of Kensington Historical Society,
Bringing with you a sense of pride
For your roots which ran deep in faith. . .
Grace for all who knew you and love
To this day the sustaining power which always
Shined forth in commitment to community,
Church and family
God of Grace, and Father of mercy brought
You each step of life's journey
Shining like the morning star of Spring
A beacon of hope, mercy and grace.
Rest in peace in the Father's everlasting arms.

Amen

LAI D ON MY HEART, May 5, 2011

TABLES OF THE CIVIL WAR SONGS AND STORIES

Matthew Dodd, master weaver of history, humor
Pathos, and loves on both sides took us
On a journey of remembering; brokenness, wounds,
Strengths, songs, jokes, and starting to heal.
Through passion and pride and a fight for righteous-
ness

Our nation learned how to be free; willing
And able eventually to come together and grow,

Both sides borrowed the same songs and rewrote
Words to suit their passions or prejudices. . .

As still we engage today giving our lives for
Freedom, rights, beliefs and peace above all.
Humor was a large part of the ongoing fight
Looking forward to a new dawning of civility.

Conditions were tough and the food was worse;
Salt pork, hard tack which could be alternately
Used for weaponry; coffee to curl anyone's hair. . .
Bed bugs, creepy crawling things going click, click
In the dead of night! "Was that a gun or a bug,
son?"

Through much travail and pain, and smiles
As we heed those lessons learned; change comes. . .
Hearts and spirits mend and bend.

HARP MUSIC

On a hot Sunday afternoon the crowd
Expectantly gathers at the Café. . .
A rising young artist will grace us
With melodious sonnets of notes
From her harmonious harp.
Classical and contemporary pieces
Lifted to the ceiling in glorious waves;
Every guest is enraptured and engaged
With a virtuoso performance by a rising star
Resplendent in genteel grace.
Bound for Julliard to further her talent growth
All patrons were captivated and enthralled;
Hearts and spirits rising above the ordinary
Touching the pinnacles of reverence.
Grasping a shared rapture of Divine resolution!

Mark Hudson
 301.641.6266



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Kensington Volunteer Fire Department's 9/11 Memorial

A Dedication Ceremony for Kensington Volunteer Fire Department's (KVFD) 9/11 Memorial will occur *Saturday, June 25, at 10am*. Notable guest speakers will include the FBI Special Agent in Charge, Robert McFeely of the Washington / Baltimore Field office who was responsible for the 9/11 DC area investigation, Congressman Van Hollen (pending), Kensington Mayor Pete Fosselman, together with pipe and drums corps, and the 3500 pound "Bell of Remembrance" which bears the names of all FDNY members lost on 9/11. During the Dedication, the Bell will be rung in the ceremonial manner marking the passing of firefighters. The Dedication on June 25 at 10am is open to all citizens who wish to partake of this important event of National significance.

(Continued from page 2)

than 200 public comment sessions, meeting openly in official hearings, in coffee chats, in homeowners' living rooms and in individual businesses. Since we started on this course in 2007, there's always been excellent participation to discuss the right mix of uses, building heights and density all important parts to update our sector plan.

Weighing support from every corner of our town, two successive mayors and councils voted to move forward with a refined sector plan, a blueprint really, for the next 20 to 30 years. It proposes some new apartments and condos, more retail and dining, limiting building heights in our core to 45 and 75 feet and imposing design guidelines to protect residential areas and prevent a "canyon" effect. What we want to accomplish is to refresh Kensington, adding some sparkle to its history, enlivening its core to stay current and not lose more visitors to attractive areas nearby. This new sector plan strives to set a course for Kensington's future, revitalizing where necessary, refreshing when possible. With the good guidance and support of the Montgomery County Planning Board, it will improve our traffic patterns, protect the historic district, add housing options, create public amenities, attract new business and services, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance public landscapes.

In Kensington and elsewhere, this type of concentrated effort is what's necessary if our communities are to remain viable and desirable places to live. It's a process that's long and sometimes tedious, but failing to plan properly for the future does a major disservice to the past.

Peter Fosselman, Mayor



**KENSINGTON
AROUND TOWN**

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To Kensington Residents