

Kensington Around Town

OCTOBER 2014

CALENDAR

Town Council Meeting
Mon., Oct 20th, 7 pm

Greenscape Committee Meeting
Tues., Oct. 28th, 7 pm

Halloween

Fri., Oct. 31st,
6 pm—9 pm
(See page 8)

1st Annual Kensington Car Show

Sat., Nov. 1st,
10 am—2 pm
(Town Hall)
Additional Info on Page 9

General Election
Tues., Nov. 4th

Town Council Meeting
Mon., Nov. 10th, 7 pm

Veterans Day
Tues., Nov. 11th
Town Offices Closed

www.tok.md.gov

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Leaf Collection Schedule

The Town will be collecting leaves beginning the week of **Mon., Oct. 27th through Fri., Dec. 5th**. There will be no scheduled collection zones again this season, as the Crew will monitor each street on a daily basis and collect leaves throughout the entire Town. This method worked very well last year.

Please rake your leaves to the curb, but **not into the street**, as this creates surface drainage issues and a possible fire hazard. Also, please refrain from parking your vehicles directly in front of or on top of the piles of leaves.



Place leaves to the curb.



DO NOT place leaves in the street

Please note that leaf piles should consist of leaves only! By including grass clippings, mulch, twigs, and small branches within the pile, this damages our vacuum and is the number one reason for delays in the collection cycle each year. **If your pile of leaves contains anything besides leaves, your pile will not be collected and you will be responsible for bagging the leaves on your own.**

For Residents that prefer to bag their own leaves, please only use lawn bags or containers clearly marked for yard-waste and place them to the curb by 7 am each Tuesday. **Please do not place leaves in trash bags.**

Please contact the Town staff with questions: 301-949-2424

Kensington Arts Theatre Presents: The Addams Family, beginning October 31st—P. 9

*** Beginning Sat., Nov. 1st, the Farmers Market hours are changing to 9 am—1 pm**

FROM MAYOR FOSSELMAN



- Special thank you to the Town Staff and Labor Day Coordinators, Lisa Kelley-Connor and Tori Randall, as well as all of the sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year's Parade and Festival a success. Toni Ward served as our gracious Grand Marshall this year.
- The Town Council and Staff continue to work on amendments to the Town's Sign Ordinance; proposed changes include allowing A-frame signs for businesses and the tightening up of details for certain types of signs; beginning this fall, several of the pole signs above 6 feet along Connecticut and Metropolitan Avenues are now prohibited and will be removed; special thank you to former Council Members Chris Bruch and Delegate Al Carr for their insight to history as well as helpful suggestions during the public hearing.
- The improvements to Connecticut Avenue continue on schedule; when the medians are completed, the chain link fence on the bridge will be replaced with wrought iron.
- The Greenscape Committee will be taking up the topic of redesigning Howard Avenue Park on Tuesday, October 28th; the idea is to make the park more user friendly to compliment the Farmers' Market and other community activities.
- Beginning on Halloween Eve, the Kensington Arts Theatre presents "The Addams Family"; performances run through November 22nd.
- Be sure to stop by the Town Hall on Saturday, November 1st to check out the 1st Annual Kensington Car Show; the event is sponsored by the Town as well as several local businesses and will feature live music from the "Nighthawks".
- I recently attended the Annual Kensington Volunteer Fire Department's Open House; the KVFD gives so much to our community to keep us safe; please consider donating to them at www.kvfd.org.
- Have a safe and Happy Halloween (see page 8 for safety tips)!



**Toni Ward
2014 Labor Day
Grand Marshall**

Town Permits

3515 Plyers Mill Court
Addition

10301 Armory Avenue
Washington Gas

10304 Kensington Pkwy.
Interior

3932 Washington Street
Fence

3923 Prospect Street
Washington Gas

Building Permits—*Please be reminded that both a Town and County permit for any exterior or interior structural changes are needed, with the exception of landscaping and repairs. Historic District properties will also need a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). Please contact the Town staff with any questions.*



From Town Manager Daily

- The Town's contractor, NZI Construction, will complete our 2014 paving project later this month with the milling and paving of Kensington Court, Kensington Parkway (access road), and four segments of Kensington Parkway between Kent Street and Littledale. This project included major curb and gutter replacement along the access road of Kensington Parkway, along with replacing the sidewalk.
- Leaf collection will begin the week of Oct. 27th and run through Dec. 5th. Please see the front page of the Journal for additional information, or contact the Town staff.
- The Maryland Dept. of Planning and Historic Takoma will be hosting a **Historic Tax Credit Workshop on Tues., Nov. 18th, 7 pm—9 pm, at 7328 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park.** All Residents and business owners within the Historic District are encouraged to attend to learn about newly funded Historic Tax Credits. Please visit www.HistoricTakoma.org for additional information.

MAYOR

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COUNCIL

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Monday through Friday
8:00 am ~ 4:00 pm

Clerk—Treasurer
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TOWN MINUTES

August 11, 2014 Town Council Summary

- Approved the Town Organizational Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2014.
- Approved the Town Council Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2014.
- Announced that a work-session will coincide with the Public Hearing on August 25th with regards to the proposed changes with the Sign Ordinance, Ordinance No. O-02-2014.
- Approved sponsoring and waving the fee for the Thanksgiving Eve Dance hosted by the Nighthawks.
- Adopted Resolution R-12-2014 - A Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute a contract with Maier Warner for public relation services.
- Adopted Resolution R-13-2014 - A Resolution granting a Sign Variance for 10810 Connecticut Avenue, Kaiser Permanente.

August 11, 2014—Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Bartram, Furman, McMullen and Sexton, Town Manager Daily, Assistant Town Manager Hoffman and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence observed for Don Whisman and Art Steklow whom both passed away recently.

The minutes from the July 7, 2014 Organizational and Town Meeting were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council –

The Mayor reported the next phase of the **Connecticut Avenue** improvement project is underway, to include: a new median, plantings, and replacing the chain link fence with wrought iron like fencing over the CSX bridge. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is funding the project. Council and Staff worked diligently to negotiate these changes. The **47th Annual Labor Day**

Parade will be held on Monday, September 1st, beginning at 10 am; and the **new barrier and landscaping** at the end of Kaiser Place has been completed.

Council Member Sexton reported that the Wheaton - Kensington Chamber of Commerce will be participating in the Labor Day Parade and encouraged all local business owners to participate as well and to visit the Chamber's booth during the Festival.

Council Member Furman unveiled a final rendering of the town directional map, which may be viewed at Town Hall during Paint the Town. She also thanked Eli Sola-Sole and stated Maier Warner will be marketing the map.

Council Member McMullen reported that the Traffic Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 27th at 7:30 pm to address parking concerns along Fawcett Street and Howard Avenues, in addition to a speed hump request on Calvert Place; mentioned that the Nighthawks will again be playing the Town Dance the night before Thanksgiving; and also noted that 10234 Carroll Place was before the HPC and will provide for a courtesy review before the Town.

Council Member Bartram suggested re-directing a few of the Town's additional coverage hours with the Montgomery County Police from traffic enforcement to night patrols; noted that Frankly Pizza had opened along Armory Avenue; and thanked the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department for their cooperation on the traffic control issues at Connecticut Avenue and Plyers Mill.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations –

Resolution No. R-12-2014 – A Resolution to extend a contract with Maier Warner for public relation services was presented to the

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Council. The contract was discussed during the July 7th Council Meeting, which includes the annual fee for public relation services, marketing of the new directional map, direct mailings, new Safeway window banners, and an upgrade to the ExploreKensington.com website. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Resolution No. R-13-2014 – A Resolution in favor of a Sign Variance at 10810 Connecticut Avenue (Kaiser Permanente) to exceed six (6) feet in height and 50 total square feet due to grade issues along Connecticut Avenue. The request for a Variance was presented at the July 7th Council Meeting. There were no public comments. See Council Actions.

Ordinance No. O-02-2014 – It was noted to the Mayor and Council that the proposed amendments to Chapter VI of the Town Code “Signs and Commercial Regulations” will be held on Monday, August 25th, with a Council work-session to follow to discuss the proposed amendments.

From the Public –

Jack Gaffey mentioned that a number of astronomical events were currently taking place, to include the super moon and a meteor shower. He stated that the meteor shower would best be visible after midnight. Eli Sola-Sole asked if the Town had any regulations with regards to the use of bicycles on sidewalks. The Mayor stated that he would look into any possible County or State regulations, but the Town does not have any specific regulations against the use of bicycles on our public sidewalks.

Council Actions –

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the Minutes from the July 7, 2014 Organizational Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to approve the Minutes from the July 7, 2014 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to waive the associated rental fees for the Nighthawks at the annual night before Thanksgiving Town Dance. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution No. R-12-2014 to execute a contract with Maier Warner for public relation services. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution No. R-13-2014 to grant a Sign Variance at 10810 Connecticut Avenue (Kaiser Permanente) for a total sign area to be no greater than 66 square feet and 11 feet in height. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

August 25, 2014 Town Council Summary

- Approved the Town Council Minutes from August 11, 2014.
- Held a Sign Variance Hearing for 3711 Plyers Mill Road for an existing sign that had been altered without first obtaining a sign permit, along with other discrepancies. The property owner and the Town Council agreed that the sign may stay as long as certain conditions were met. The Council motioned to have the Town staff draft a Resolution in favor of the Sign Variance request for the September 8, 2014 Council Meeting.
- Held a Public Hearing on Ordinance O-02-2014 to amend Chapter VI of the Town Code "Signs and Commercial Regulations." *The public record will remain open until the close*

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- *of business (4:00 pm) on October 27, 2014.*
- Held a work-session following the Town Council Meeting to discuss amendments to Chapter VI of the Sign Code. An additional work-session was scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2014 at 7 pm to discuss a revised draft of the amendments.

August 25, 2014—Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Bartram, Furman, McMullen and Sexton, Town Attorney Ferguson, Town Manager Daily, Assistant Town Manager Hoffman and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Minutes from the August 11, 2014 Town Meeting were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

From the Mayor and Town Council –

Mayor Fosselman stated he received a request from the Kensington Service Station to host a car show on Saturday, November 1st from 10 am to 2 pm. Council Member Furman suggested an alternate location then the proposed Howard Avenue because of the Farmers Market; the Mayor suggested the Town Hall lot.

Council Member McMullen stated a Traffic Committee Meeting will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss parking recommendations and to review a request for an additional speed hump on Calvert Place.

Council Member Furman reported that Maier Warner will be assisting the Town in developing a strategic plan for the distribution and use of the Town map, and will be meeting to discuss the project further after Labor Day.

Council Member Sexton expressed his gratitude in advance for the efforts of our Parade

and Festival Coordinators in organizing the 47th Annual Labor Day Parade and Festival on September 1st.

The Mayor and Council heard a sign variance request for 3711 Plyers Mill Road. The property owner, John Aravanis, discussed the history of the existing sign and noted that it was permitted by the County in 1992. Mr. Aravanis also questioned why the sign was no longer compliant with the Town's regulations. Town Attorney Ferguson stated the sign was no longer compliant because alterations were made to the sign, which triggered certain regulations within the applicability of the Town Code. Specifically, the sign exceeded not only the distance between two sides of a sign (angled greater than 30 degrees), but also measures greater than the Town's 50 square feet maximum for a ground sign.

Chris Bruch stated he recalled the property owners project years ago and thought, at that time, it was recommended to Mr. Aravanis to have an angled sign in order to eliminate the need for two signs on the property. Mr. Bruch also stated it was never the intent of the sign ordinance to include the base in the allowable sign calculation.

Town Attorney Ferguson stated regardless of the original intent, the Town may not be less restrictive than the County's regulations, and that the County ordinance language includes provisions on any support with a width greater than four (4) feet to be considered an integral component of the sign and is to be included within the allowable sign calculation.

After discussing possible options to remedy the sign, the Council and Mr. Aravanis agreed to a compromise that would allow a variance for the size requirement provided the following conditions are met: create a landscaped area around the base of the sign (required by Code); change the facing of the sign to bring

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the sign into compliance, and to file for a new sign permit. See Council Actions.

From the Public –

Jack Gaffey, on behalf of the Kensington Historical Society (KHS), thanked the Mayor, Council, and Staff for including KHS concerts in the last newsletter; he spoke in support of the new park signs, and noted the need for a new Town Directory. The Mayor and Council discussed a new directory and suggested organizing a committee of block captains that would obtain the necessary information.

Ordinances, Resolutions, Regulations –

A Public Hearing was held on Ordinance No. O-02-2014, an Ordinance to amend Chapter VI “Signs and Commercial Regulations” of the Town Code. Town Attorney Ferguson stated that the amendments are mostly necessary for clarification purposes and that additional input is needed to determine appropriate signage regulations. It was noted that an open work session would follow the Council Meeting to discuss the proposed amendments further.

Mayor Fosselman clarified that the proposed amendments are separate from the current requirements that all pole mounted signs be removed by September 1, 2014. Town Manager Daily noted that the Town staff will refrain from enforcing the pole sign regulations until later this fall; once the new County zoning language takes effect. Town Attorney Ferguson stated that the current zoning language would make it difficult for businesses to replace their existing pole signs with monument signs, and by waiting for the new language to officially take effect would help with the transition from pole to monument signs.

Chris Bruch, a Council Member during the adoption of the current regulations,

commented that it was the Town’s intent at the time to remove signs off of the streets and onto the buildings, which would create a more aesthetically pleasing visual. Mr. Bruch also mentioned that the creation of the original sign regulations came about from the use of large ‘Plexiglas’ signs at a storage facility.

Mr. Bruch continued by stating that the following recommendations should be considered for the proposed changes: 1) use the existing County language for the regulation of interior window signs instead of enforcing through separate regulations; 2) continue to allow for the use of neon signs, per County regulations; 3) suggested listing the landscaping requirement separately; 4) suggested including ‘historical significance’ within the variance procedure; 5) suggested adding graphics or a guidebook to Chapter VI.

Al Carr suggested the use of external down lighting instead of internal lighting for signs in an effort to help eliminate light pollution. Mr. Carr also suggested within the variance procedures that more than just the contiguous and abutting neighbors be notified of a sign variance.

Jack Gaffey suggested adding confronting neighbors to the sign variance procedure.

Council Actions –

Council Member Furman moved to approve the Minutes from the August 11, 2014 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to have the Town staff prepare a Resolution granting a variance on the size of the sign at 3711 Plyers Mill Road, with the following conditions: create a landscaped area around the base of the sign; change the facing of the sign to bring into compliance, and to file for a new sign permit. The motion passed unanimously

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Council Member McMullen moved to hold the public record open on Ordinance O-02-2014 to amend Chapter VI of the Town Code “ Signs and Commercial Regulations” until the close of business on Monday, October 27, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Work Session 9:00 p.m.

Mayor Fosselman, Council Members Bartram, Furman, McMullen and Sexton, Town Attorney Ferguson, Town Manager Daily, Assistant Town Manager Hoffman and Clerk-Treasurer Engels were present.

The Mayor, Council, and Town staff discussed the proposed amendments to Chapter VI “Signs and Commercial Regulations” within Ordinance No. O-02-2014. Specifically, the regulation of monument signs, a-frame (sidewalk) signs, and possible regulation of certain materials and lighting aspects were discussed.

Town Attorney Ferguson agreed to prepare a revised draft of the Ordinance for the Council, which will be reviewed at a second work session on September 29th.

The work session was adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

A recording of each Town Council meeting may be found on our website: <http://tok.md.gov/town-business/council-meeting-recordings/>

Additionally, a brief summary of any actions taken during a Council Meeting is sent out through our email notification system the following day. If you would like to receive this notification, please join our email list at www.tok.md.gov.

COMMUNITY



Halloween Safety Reminders

As families in Montgomery County are making their plans for Halloween, the Montgomery County Police Department would like to offer the following important safety reminders. Minimizing safety risks will help ensure a Happy Halloween for everyone.

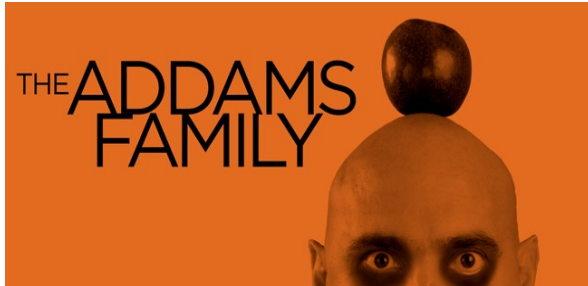
1. “trick-or-treat” only in neighborhoods and at homes know to your family.
2. A parent, other familiar adult, or responsible older sibling should always accompany younger children.
3. Older Children should plan out a trick-or-treating route with their parents, wear a watch, carry a cell phone and return home at an agreed upon time.
4. Children should never approach a home without lights.
5. Children should not eat any collected candy until an adult has inspected it.
6. Any unwrapped or partially wrapped candy should be thrown away.
7. Keep yards clear of items such as ladders, and hoses that could trip young children.
8. Battery jack-o’-lantern candles are preferable to using a real flame.
9. If you do use candles, place the pumpkins away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
10. Keep paper or cloth yard decorations away from burning candles.

Children should carry a flashlight when trick-or-treating. They should walk on sidewalks where available, cross the street at the corner or in a crosswalk. Also wear brightly-colored, or reflective costumes that won’t cause tripping. Face make-up is preferable to wearing a mask, but if a child is wearing a mask, it should not impair the child’s vision.

Motorists are advised to drive slower and with extra caution through neighborhoods on Halloween.

COMMUNITY

The Kensington Arts Theatre Presents:



Morticia and Gomez Addams want to continue living amongst death, pain and suffering, the way they always have. But then there is a change in plans. Their eldest child, Wednesday, has fallen in love with a strange boy, Lucas Beineke. To the Addams, strange is normal. Happy is sad. The Addams believe life revolves around death. To Morticia and Gomez's own complexity, they invite Wednesday's new boyfriend's family to their home. Many strange things happen the night that the Beinekes come to visit.

Performance Dates

October 31;
November 1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22

Fri & Sat at 8:15 pm // Sun at 3 pm

Tickets

www.katonline.org



Kensington Car Show

Please join the Kensington Service Station as they host the **1st Annual Kensington Car Show on Saturday, November 1st, from 10 am—2 pm at Town Hall.**

The show will include cars dating from the 1950's through today, along with a number of street rods. Interested participants may enter their vehicle by October 25th at www.KensingtonCarShow.com.



In addition to the Car Show, The Nighthawks will be performing live! Food will also be available for purchase from Branded '72 Pit Barbeque and Jenny Cakes Bakery.

The Kensington Station would like to thank the Kensington business community for helping to sponsor this event.

www.KensingtonCarShow.com



Paul C. Sexton
Financial Advisor

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

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Kensington, MD 20895

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Kensington Farmers Market
Saturdays
8 am – 12 noon
Howard Avenue Train Station
Open year-round
[www.explorekensington.com/
farmers_market](http://www.explorekensington.com/farmers_market)

*Beginning Saturday, November 1st, the Farmers Market's hours are changing to 9:00 am—1:00 pm.



Kensington Around Town

OCTOBER 2014

3710 Mitchell Street Kensington, MD 20895 Office: 301.949.2424 www.tok.md.gov

To Kensington Residents