August Journal Dedicated to our Business Community

While Kensington continues to build our reputation as a shopping and dining destination across the County, credited to our successful Explore Kensington campaign, we would like to remind everyone the importance of shopping and dining local. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a great toll on our local businesses and we are dedicating the August Around Town Journal to all of our 250 businesses, and especially our small businesses that help provide Kensington’s unique charm.

Town Happenings

Traffic Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 27 • 7pm

Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 14 • 7pm

From the Mayor - Backpack Donation

You know it is summer when you hear the Good Humor truck followed by the plea of children for their favorite ice cream. While my kids are all grown, the tinkling music and thought of an ice cream sandwich recently had me catch up with Ajay Jalloh, our local Good Humor vendor. In conversation, Ajay, an immigrant from Sierra Leone, mentioned that he purchases backpacks for school children to send back home each year. Due to lower sales this year from the pandemic, Ajay asked if I could reach out to the community to help donate backpacks for the children of Sierra Leone. I was happy to offer my help, while also making a donation following a purchase on Amazon.

If you are interested in donating a backpack to help Ajay’s efforts, Town Hall will be a drop location through August 31 during Town Office hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

If you have any questions or would like your donation picked up from your porch, please call me at 301-442-4507.
Social Justice Committee

On June 6, 2020, Kensington residents marched in solidarity for racial justice. Like so many Americans, our community was appalled by the murder of George Floyd and organized a march to express our outrage over continued social injustices.

An estimated 20 million people across the globe have protested against racial injustice since the events that lead to Mr. Floyd’s death, and communities are now enacting police reform measures, including Montgomery County. We have marched in unity and displayed our messages of equality and justice, but what is our next step?

In an effort to continue the movement, the Town has established a Social Justice Committee to encourage continued involvement through listening and education. Ann Lichter has volunteered to assist in organizing the committee and we hope to schedule our first meeting, via Zoom, in September. If you are interested in participating, please email at Mayor.Tracey@tok.md.gov.

Mural in Honor of Bertha Clum

The Greenscape Committee has been working with artist Nicole Bourgea to paint a mural along the Frederick Avenue bridge, which will depict native plants, wildflowers, and an epigraph in honor of Bertha Clum’s love of gardens. Nicole has started the mural and she hopes to have it completed by the end of summer.

The Town was also awarded a Program Open Space grant for Clum-Kennedy Park that will brick the existing mulch walkways and replace the grape arbor. Shorb Landscaping will be working on the improvements beginning in September.
Are you an avid walker wanting to improve connectivity between neighborhoods and across the community? Has the recent quarantine inspired you to become a more bicycle-oriented family? If so, you may be interested in participating in a Town Council sponsored working group to explore options for increasing pedestrian and bicycle access and safety in and around the Town of Kensington. If interested in being a part of this discussion, please email Council Member Nate Engle (NateEngleToK@gmail.com), who will be organizing a brainstorming meeting in the coming weeks.

Summary of Town Minutes

August 10, 2020 Town Council Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2020.
- Approved the Town Organizational Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2020.
- Acknowledged holding a Work Session with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and the State Highway Administration (SHA) with regards to traffic and pedestrian safety along the 3900 and 4000 block of Knowles Avenue (MD 547). The Mayor will send a letter to both MCDOT and SHA thanking them for participating within the Work Session.
- Acknowledged that the Ethics Commission met in closed session on July 31 and August 7 to provide an advisory opinion.
- Continued Resolution No. R-07-2020 – A Resolution to accept a contribution from Knowles Manor Senior Housing, LLC, to supplement traffic and parking enforcement.

July 13, 2020 Town Organizational Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)
- Council Members Engle and Hill-Zayat were sworn in prior to the Organizational Meeting.
- The Mayor and Council discussed areas of interest and were assigned to the following Committees:
  - Auditing Committee – Crimmins and Hill-Zayat
  - Board of Elections – Engle
  - Ethics Commission – Bartram
  - Greenscape Committee – Furman and Engle
  - Development Review Board – Bartram and Crimmins
  - Traffic Committee – Bartram and Hill-Zayat
- The Mayor and Council discussed adding the following Committees:
  - Election Committee – will serve as a subcommittee to the Board of Elections to review the 2020 Town Election and make recommendations for the 2021 Town Election.
  - Pedestrian and Bike Safety Committee – will serve as a subcommittee to either the Development Review Board or the Traffic Committee; discussion of the subcommittee will continue to determine the appropriate placement.
  - Social Justice Committee – will serve as an independent Committee reporting to the Mayor.

July 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting (held by Zoom Video Conferencing)
- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2020.
- Acknowledged Mayor Furman’s appointment of Jeff Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson to the Audit Committee.
- Provided an updated site plan and information on the proposed brick pathway and grape arbor at Clum-Kennedy Park, which will be funded through the Program Open Space grant program.

Complete Minutes, along with an audio recording from past meetings, are available: tok.md.gov/town-government/council-minutes-recordings/. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Town Meeting Minutes, please contact Susan Engels, Clerk-Treasurer, at 301-949-2424, Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov.
There is a diverse and original selection of shops and restaurants throughout Kensington that need the support of our community. Please visit ExploreKensington.com for more information and discover what they can offer during Phase 2 of COVID-19.
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Please be reminded that both a Town and County permit are needed for any interior or exterior structural changes, with the exception of landscaping and general repairs. Historic District properties will also require a Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP). Please contact the Town staff at 301-949-2424 with any questions.

10421 Mannakee Street - Dumpster
10320 Fawcett Street - Porch Repair
3601 Dupont Avenue - Solar Panels
3807 Calvert Place - Solar Panels
10812 St. Paul Street - Storage Container
10543 St. Paul Street - Dumpster
10429 Kensington Parkway - Dumpster
10544 Wheatley Street - Utility
3716 Washington Street - Dumpster
10608 Nash Place - Fence and Retaining Wall
3708 Farragut Avenue - Deck and Interior Renovation

10453 Metropolitan Avenue - Renovation
10117 Frederick Avenue - Fence
10211 Montgomery Avenue - Dumpster
3609 Farragut Avenue - Fence
10500 Metropolitan Avenue - Utility
3701 Calvert Place - Dumpster
3505 Kent Street - Storage Container
10315 Detrick Avenue - Shed
3603 Plyers Mill Road - Utility
10308 Montgomery Avenue - Dumpster
3700 Farragut Avenue - Addition
3504 Dupont Avenue - Fence
10202 Frederick Avenue - Fence
3716 Washington Street - Dumpster
10545 Wheatley Street - Fence
10543 St. Paul Street - Fence
3608 Farragut Avenue - Demolition
10547 St. Paul Street - Addition and Alteration
10544 Wheatley Street - New Home
10547 St. Paul Street - Dumpster

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