**Kensington Around Town**

January 2014

**CALENDAR**

- **3rd Thursday**
  - Thu., Jan. 16th, 5–8 pm
  - Howard Avenue

- **Town Offices Closed**
  - Mon., Jan. 20th
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Day

- **Traffic Committee Meeting**
  - Tues., Feb. 4th, 7 pm
  - Town Hall

- **Town Council Meeting**
  - Mon., Jan. 27th, 7:00 pm
  - Town Hall

- **Town Potluck Dinner**
  - Sun., Feb. 9th, 4—7 pm
  - Town Hall—see front page

- **Town Council Meeting**
  - Mon., Feb. 10th, 7:00 pm
  - Town Hall

**Please visit the Town website for updated and current information.**

www.tok.md.gov

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**Jack Jones**

Kensington Mayor 1990 - 1994

Former Kensington Mayor, Jack Jones, passed away on December 20, 2013 after a long attempted recovery from back surgery at the young age of 84. Jones served two terms as Kensington’s Mayor from 1990 to 1994, and served on the Town Council for one year prior to his election as Mayor.

Jones, a strong believer in maintaining Kensington’s small town appeal, introduced the Revitalization Committee in 1990 with the intent of ‘sprucing’ up Connecticut Avenue and closing various streets to through traffic on the north side to improve traffic patterns within the Town.

**Contributions in Jack’s memory may be made to Higgins Cemetery Association,** c/o Knowles Little, Treasurer, 9109 Scott Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

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**Town Potluck Dinner and Chili Cook-Off**

Please join us at Town Hall on Sunday, February 9th, 4 pm, for a potluck dinner and chili cook-off. The Town will be supplying the main entrees, along with drinks and flatware. Town residents are asked to bring a side dish or dessert large enough for your family and to share with a few others.

Please RSVP for the potluck dinner to Barrie Carr at BarrieCarr@gmail.com.

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**INSIDE**

- From Mayor Fosselman
- From Town Manager Daily
- Recent Town Permits Issued
- Council Meeting Minutes
- Town Reminders—2013 Tax Info

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• We recently lost former Mayor Jack Jones. Jack was one of the original residents who encouraged me to run for Mayor and he remained a mentor throughout my tenure. The celebration service for Jack’s life reflected his strong commitment to his family, friends and the Town. The Council and I extend our sympathies to Jackie Jones and her family.

• Phase 1 (paving and sidewalks) and phase 2 (intersection of Howard Avenue) of the enhancements to Connecticut Avenue are almost complete. Phase 3 will begin in the early spring. This includes new medians with decorative pavers and planting beds.

• The improvements to the intersection of Montgomery Avenue and Kensington Parkway are almost finished as well. The new traffic pattern and crosswalks with brick pavers are already slowing traffic down and have greatly improved the appearance of the area. Weather permitting, fresh landscaping will be in place by early spring increasing the green space by 300%.

• The Town Council voted to increase our alcohol service district to include the 10401 Connecticut Avenue property (Bakers Union) in hopes of attracting a new food establishment to that building. Delegate Al Carr has initiated the bill (MC 15-14) at the state level; and we appreciate his continued support and work on behalf of Kensington.

• In addition, Delegate Carr is sponsoring the County & Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act which will allow the Town to purchase and maintain our own street lights. This has been a long time priority and revenue saver for Kensington as well as our neighboring municipalities.

• I hope that all of you are able to attend our first annual Potluck Dinner on Sunday, February 9th, 4-7pm at the Town Hall (details on p. 1). I would like to thank the planning committee members for their hard work and efforts to make this happen: Barrie Carr, Megan Griggs, Dawn Frattarelli, Duane Rollins, Lauren Robinson, Angelika Stablow, Jennifer Beaudet, and Judy Beach-Uhlman.

• The Town is forming a new committee and seeking volunteers to serve: Greenscape Committee. The mission is “to promote the health, safety, and welfare of those who live, work, and otherwise spend time in the town's outdoor environment.” If you are interested in serving, please contact me at Mayor.fosselman@tok.md.gov or 301-949-2424. Thank you to Barbara Scharman, Tracey Furman and Helen Wilkes for their months of work on the formation of this committee.

• After 5 long years, come September 2014 all signs over 6 feet within the Town limits must come down and be replaced with monument style (i.e., new Exxon/Mobil and Capital One Bank) signs no higher than 6 feet. This includes all gas stations, banks, and retail sites.

• Reminder that our Farmers’ Market is still open during the winter months on Saturdays, from 8am to Noon.

• Happy New Year to everyone and I wish all of you a prosperous 2014!
From Town Manager Daily

- Following a discussion and review by the Town’s Audit Committee, along with our auditor: Linton, Shafer, Warfield & Garrett, PA (LSWG), the Audit Committee has recommended, through a letter dated January 8, 2014, that the financial statements submitted for the year ending June 30, 2013, be accepted as submitted by LSWG. The Town would like to thank the members of the Audit Committee: Jeffrey Capron, Leslie Olson, and Kerry Thompson for their service to the Town.

- The Traffic Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, February 4th, 7 pm (Town Hall).

- 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.
October 21, 2013 Town Council Summary

- Approved Town Meeting Minutes from September 9, 2013; Town Business and Retail Property Owners Meet and Greet Minutes from September 30, 2013; and Work Session Minutes from October 7, 2013.
- Reviewed and approved the driveway widening request for 3503 Kensington Court.
- Supported a proposal for a Safety Month in January to include First Aid/CPR Training.
- Approved the Town to be a co-sponsor for the Annual Town Dance held on the night before Thanksgiving.
- Approved Resolution R-13-2013 to extend the contract with Unity Disposal and Recycling for one year with the same terms.
- Approved Resolution R-14-2013 to transfer funds within the FY 2013-14 Budget to properly allocate code enforcement.
- Approved Resolution R-15-2013 to extend the contract with Maier Warner to serve as marketing and public relations representatives for the Town for one year.
- Approved Resolution R-16-2013 to amend the policy regulating the use of the Kensington Armory to allow the Town Manager to waive fees under certain circumstances.
- Approved Resolution R-17-2013 opposing the Amendments to the Public Benefits Points and Categories of the CRT Zone in the County Zoning Ordinance.

October 21, 2013—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 was observed. Julie O’Malley was wished a speedy recovery from shoulder surgery.

The minutes from September 9th, September 30th, and October 7th, 2013 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

The Council heard a driveway widening request for 3503 Kensington Court from Michael Dent, MGD Design/Build Company. The request was made for greater egress from cars due to the slope of the neighboring property and for greater wheelchair access; it would be approximately 21 feet at its widest part. The Town received letters of support from both adjacent neighbors. Bonita Condon, a neighbor, spoke in support of the expansion. The Council questioned, after reviewing the plans, if the driveway may be reduced from the proposed 21 feet and if an impervious surface may be used. It was determined that the driveway necessitated the width, and an impervious surface would hinder access. See Council Actions.

Public Appearances — Al Lacey stated enforcement of the leash law is needed for public areas and he requested the tree stump in front of Prevention of Blindness be removed. Council Member Furman suggested the Town contribute to planting of a new tree to replace the stump since it is an important part of the park and benefits the Town. The Mayor stated he has spoken to contractors to see if the stump removal may be discounted for the non-profit and can also see if any help or discount may be provided from the Town in purchasing and planting a tree.

Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the Town helping with a tree planting at Prevention of Blindness, supported the new park sign, and reminded Residents of the Orionid Meteor Shower. Sharon Scott explained a proposal

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for a safety month in January, which would include First Aid/CPR training at a discount to Residents and Town Staff, and she also suggested creating a notification system so Residents know who to call in case of emergencies for one of their neighbors. The Council concurred to have Ms. Scott move forward with January as Safety Month. Elizabeth Matory, candidate for District 18 State Delegate, spoke in support of the Town safety initiative and informed Residents of her website, elizabethmatory.com.

From the Mayor and Town Council – The Mayor reported the Town hosted a very successful business mixer for all Town businesses and property owners with various business associations and the Council, and suggested holding this twice a year; a letter will be sent from the MML Montgomery County Chapter to the County Council over concerns of the Office of Legislative Oversight Report on Municipal Tax Duplication and Revenue Sharing, all municipalities of the County will be signing the letter; he attended the MML Fall conference, spoke as Vice President of the Maryland Mayors Association Forum; attended the 120th birthday fundraiser of Noyes Library, thanked volunteers; and attended the leadership breakfast hosted by County Council Member Roger Berliner, an outreach effort for municipalities of District 1.

Council Member Sexton thanked the Residents that supported their neighbor’s driveway request.

Council Member Furman attended the Noyes Library event, the Business Mixer, and the Work Session, and stated all were well attended and great events.

Council Member McMullen held a Traffic Committee meeting on September 18th, discussion was on changing the Town Code to allow the Town Manager to impose traffic regulations on a temporary or emergency basis without Council approval; he questioned if enforcement was needed for left wheel parking; and suggested the Town co-sponsor the day before Thanksgiving dance in conjunction with a food drive. See Council Actions. Town Manager Daily explained only warnings are being issued at this time for left wheel parking and marks can be painted near intersections and fire hydrants to remind Residents of where not to park. See Council Actions.

The next Town Meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 12th (subsequently changed to November 18th).

Council Member Bartram attended the Traffic Committee meeting on September 18th, attended the County briefing on the Warner Circle renovation project on September 25th, suggested reviewing outdated signs in Town, and will assist with the project to revise the Town Code.

The Town will check to see if the green paint sprayed on Connecticut and Metropolitan Avenue sidewalks can be removed and the responsible organization billed.

Resolution R-13-2013 to extend the contract with Unity Disposal for one year was discussed. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Resolution R-14-2013 to transfer funds from Public Works to Public Safety in the fiscal year 2013 budget in the amount of $32,063 was discussed. There was no public comment. Town Manager Daily explained the Resolution was to transfer funds for the part time Code Enforcement position from the Public Works category to the public safety category and also to allocate a portion of the assistant Town Manager’s salary to Public Safety for code enforcement beginning January 1, 2014. See Council Actions.
Resolution R-15-2013 to extend the existing contract with Maier Warner was discussed. Jack Gaffey stated additional marketing for Town events is needed; and Sharon Scott requested the Safety Month by publicized. See Council Actions.

The Council also discussed whether additional services with Maier Warner for an economic development campaign should be approved. The Council concurred from the work session they held that because of the ownership pattern of property which includes trusts, the Town is not ready to contract with Maier Warner for an official campaign and most of the action items can be done by Staff. The Mayor noted there are three significant projects in the works and if needed Maier Warner could be used at an hourly rate for specific projects as opportunities present themselves.

Jack Gaffey commented on the need for a better mix of businesses; and Sabina Emerson stated surrounding neighborhoods do not know about third Thursday and other Town events and suggested more business meet and greets to encourage businesses to participate in their own success.

Tom Thompson, a Resident in strategic communications, stated the amount of money available to the public relations company is low and the importance of using them for what they do best.

Resolution R-17-2013 opposing the amendments to the public benefits points and categories of the CRT Zone. The Mayor stated the Planning Board recommended changes to Division 6.6 “Optional Method Public Benefits” of the CRT Zone, which would significantly reduce the number of points permissible for certain public benefits. The Council discussed the changes being a hindrance to the community to encourage development through the defined public benefit points and categories. The Council stated they had already discussed and supported the public benefits system for the CRT Zone and did not see the basis for reducing the points; the Town’s smaller lot sizes along with lower height and density restrictions fit the originally supported model. There were no public comments. See Council Actions.

Resolution R-16-2013 was discussed to amend the policy regulating the use of the Armory. The Resolution amends the 2012 Resolution to allow the Town Manager to waive permit fees for meetings of social, community and civic clubs and meetings sponsored by state, county and elected officials for a public purpose. There was no public comment. See Council Actions. Council Member McMullen suggested the Town Manager inform the Council if something previously reserved for the Council was done.

Council Actions:
Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2013 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2013 Town Business and Retail Property Owners Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2013 Work Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Sexton moved to approve the driveway widening request at 3503 Kensington Court as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to co-sponsor the concert/dance and fundraising event to be held in the drill hall on the night
TOWN MINUTES

before Thanksgiving. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-13-2013 to authorize the Town Manager to extend the contract with Unity Disposal and Recycling, LLC, for one year on the same terms and conditions to provide refuse, recycling, yard waste and bulk pick up service. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-14-2013 authorizing the Town Manager to transfer funds within the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget from Public Works expense to Public Safety expense in the amount of $32,053 to properly allocate public safety. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to approve Resolution R-15-2013 extending a contract with Maier Warner to serve as marketing and public relations representative for the Town. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-17-2013 opposing the amendments to the Public Benefits Points and Categories of the CRT Zone in the County Zoning Ordinance. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-16-2013 to amend the policy regulating the use of the Kensington Armory. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

November 18, 2013—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 was observed to keep Jean Thompson in our thoughts and prayers.

The minutes from October 21, 2013 were reviewed and approved. See Council Actions.

Ana Lopez Van Balen, Mid-County Regional Center Director, discussed recommendations from the Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force, including a proposed bill to change the alcohol to food ratio in the County from 50/50 to 60/40. She explained the proposed ratio change would better reflect the existing sales within the County and higher cost of premium alcoholic beverages. If the Town wanted to change the ratio, they would have to pass their own resolution to be included in the bill, which may be put on the

November 18, 2013
Town Council Summary

- Approved Town Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2013.
- Ana Lopez Van Balen and Delegate Carr discussed a proposed State Bill to change the alcohol to food ratio in Montgomery County from 50/50 to 60/40.
- Approved Resolution R-18-2013 to expand the B-K Liquor License area to 10401 Connecticut Avenue.
- Supported Proclaiming January 2014 as Public Safety Month within Kensington.
- Approved Resolution R-19-2013 Proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month in Kensington.
- Approved Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt the 2013 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.
Delegate Carr stated a hearing would be in December and explained the Bill introduction process and other bills he is working on. Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the alcohol to food ratio change.

Sharon Scott gave an update on Safety Month for January 2014, which will include CPR training, smoke detector testing and installation, police security assessments, and house number painting on the curb. The Mayor stated $1,500 is available for funding and the Council suggested adding some activities for children. The Council concurred to proclaim January as Safety month. Subsequently, Safety Month has been postponed until March.

From the Mayor and Town Council – The Mayor reported the new Greenscape Committee is being formed and he is looking for Residents and Business Owners interested in addressing landscaping and maintenance of landscaping abutting the public right of way. Council Member Furman, Helen Wilkes, and Barbara Scharman will participate in the Committee; the intersection at Kensington Parkway and Montgomery Avenue is nearing completion, the brick crosswalk/speed hump will be installed and landscaping completed when weather permits; a potluck dinner and/or a chili cook-off will be held at the Armory in February, the planning committee will be meeting on November 21st, he testified at the County Council for the ZTA hearing last Thursday opposing changes to the CRT zone points and amenities; others also testified in opposition; he witnessed the swearing in of the new council in Rockville; the Town continues to work with the County on sign violations at the new nail salon; the annual lighting of the Menorah will be Wednesday November 27th at 6 p.m., the Tree Lighting will be Sunday December 1st at 5:30 p.m., the Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16th at 6 p.m., and the next Town Meeting will be on December 16th at 7 p.m.; he attended the Annual Ministries of Montgomery Dinner; researched information on the LAP (local advisory panel), which is under the direction of HPC, the Town nominates members to be on it, there are no term limits, and it has not been very active in the past but has become active now due to the Reynolds property; SHA continues to work with the Town on improving the median on Connecticut Avenue, landscaping plans were provided, brick pavers and low maintenance decorative plants will be added, the existing pots will need to be removed and either used in other parts of Town or sold to Residents; and he announced the “If I Were Mayor” essay contest for fourth grade students, MML is looking for volunteers to read and judge essays.

Updating the Town directory was discussed; due to the difficulty in obtaining information from Residents, suggestions were made to eliminate the directory or develop an online version. Jack Gaffey spoke in support of the paper Town directory; and Sharon Scott explained a password protected online directory would be difficult to maintain, she suggested making it easier for Residents by allowing them to provide their information online. Council Member Sexton volunteered to work on the new directory.

Council Member Bartram thanked Town Manager Daily for helping one of his neighbors resolve a problem between Washington Gas and WSSC.

Council Member McMullen reminded Residents the Nighthawks will be playing on Nov 27th, it is a non alcoholic event, and admission is $10 and a donation of packaged foods.

Council Member Furman explained the Design Guideline Task Force subcommittee is continuing to work on the supplement and the next meeting will be on Thursday; the map project

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is still being developed with a goal to have it ready for distribution at the Day of the Book event on April 27th.

Council Member Sexton stated the Town Manager is reviewing the steep handicap ramp on Kensington Parkway and questioned the reason and whether the traffic committee could evaluate the no left turn restriction onto Kent Street. The Mayor stated that in past reviews of the sign, the majority of Residents were in support of the restriction.

Council Member Bartram stated he was aware that the Town Attorney recommended not to use local traffic only signs, but suggested further review may be needed since they are not only used in nearby municipalities, but by the County.

Public Appearances – Jack Gaffey stated he approved the modification to Montgomery Avenue, suggested a left directional sign be added, and suggested the pot luck dinner be held on the Town’s incorporation date in April. Delegate Carr suggested there may be an opportunity when SHA mills and paves Connecticut Avenue next summer to suggest a different lane width or configuration. The Mayor suggested Delegate Carr contact SHA for the Town; however, he stated there may be new standards that require bicycle and bus lanes when there are lane reconfigurations.

Ordinances, Resolutions, and Regulations - Resolution R-19-2013 proclaiming November as Municipal Government Month in Kensington was discussed. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013 was discussed. Town Manager Daily explained in order to be eligible to receive disaster mitigation grant funding the Town is required to adopt the County’s Mitigation Plan or develop their own. There was no public comment. See Council Actions.

Council Actions:
Council Member McMullen moved to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2013 Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member McMullen moved to approve Resolution R-18-2013 expanding the commercial area in the Town in which the County Board of License Commissioners may issue B-K Liquor Licenses to include 10401 Connecticut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to approve Resolution R-19-2013 proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Bartram moved to approve Resolution R-20-2013 to adopt Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Furman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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**When It Snows . . .**

The Town requires all of its residents and businesses to clear a path on the sidewalk in front of their properties within 24 hours of each snow fall. If a path has not been cleared within 24 hours, a notice will be sent to the resident or business reminding them it needs to be done. If a path still has not been cleared within 24 hours of the notice, a citation will be issued—$65 for residential and $195 for businesses. Businesses are reminded NOT to pile the snow at sidewalk corners or block pedestrian right-of-ways.

**Exceptions:** residential sidewalks located on Conn., Summit and Knowles Avenues will be cleared by the Town.

If you are traveling during the winter months, please make arrangements before leaving to have someone clear your sidewalk.

The Town is also accepting names of individuals who wish to be contacted to help with snow removal by residents. If you are interested, please contact the Town at 301.949.2424

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**Recycling, Bulk Pick-ups and Trash Collection**

- **Tuesdays:** Brush, Recycling, Bulk Pick-ups and Trash
- **Fridays:** Trash
- **Bulk Pick-ups** are for items such as furniture and appliances; **staff notification** is required and there is no fee for these items.

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**2013 Tax Returns**

*Maryland Resident Income Tax Return*

**TOWN REMINDERS**

The Town’s **largest revenue source** is a repayment of the State’s income tax to the municipality. In order for the Town to acquire its share of the income tax and to continue to help fund the services the Town provides, it is necessary the Town’s name is filled out, **Town of Kensington**, in the appropriate box. A sample of the form is shown above with the appropriate box labeled.

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**Leash Law**

Please be reminded that the **Town requires all pets to be leashed and under the full control of a responsible person when in public recreation areas**, per Section 7-502 of the Town Code. A violation of this law may result in a $45 citation for the 1st offense, and a $90 citation for repeat offenses.
Thursday
The shops of Old Town Kensington will once again be holding 3rd Thursday on January 16th. Please join them in an effort to shop and buy local to support our local businesses.

Participating Shops and Restaurants:
5:00 pm—8:00 pm
A&L Nail Salon
Country Cupboard Tea Room
Frankly... Pizza (Weather Permitting)
GALA Artisan Jewelry and Gift
Jenny Cakes
Kensington Row Bookshop—20% off.
K-Town Bistro—10% off
Sage Style and Consignments—15% - 50 % off
And More . . .

The Kensington Arts Theatre (KAT) returns to Kensington this February for Spring Awakening. A rock musical with music by Duncan Sheik and a book and lyrics by Steven Sater. It is based on the controversial German play Spring Awakening (1891) by Frank Wedekind which was banned in Germany for some time due to its frank portrayal of abortion, homosexuality, rape, child abuse and suicide. Set in late-19th century Germany, the musical tells the story of teenagers discovering the inner and outer tumult of sexuality. In the musical, alternative rock is employed as part of the folk-infused rock score.

Please visit KAT’s website for show dates and times: http://www.katonline.org/
Kensington Around Town

JANUARY 2014

Please join us for the Kensington Farmers Market every Saturday between 8 am – 12 noon at the Howard Avenue Train Station.

We are open year-round.

To Kensington Residents