



Kensington Around Town May 2020

It's Time To Vote!



Art by Janet Fox

2020 Town Election

by Darin Bartram and Conor Crimmins

The Town's election is traditionally held on the first Monday in June (June 1st for 2020), but this year, COVID-19 has caused a few necessary changes. Beginning this week, the Town is preparing and will mail a voting package to each voter registered with the County as of April 27. (If you were not registered with the County by that date, you can still receive a ballot by registering to vote with the Town by 4pm on May 27. There are instructions for registering at the following link tok.md.gov/town-government/town-elections

When you receive your voting package, you will have the opportunity to vote by dropping the required documents in a contact-free drop-box at Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) anytime from when the drop-box is installed (estimated to be May 22) and 9pm on June 1st, or you can return them by mail. If you mail your ballot, it must arrive by June 1st to be counted. Please read and follow the instructions that will be included in the voting package very carefully, to ensure that your vote is valid.

We would like to give special thanks to our election judges, Martha Deale, Spencer Harrill, and Jenny Smith who, when asked if they would

be willing to serve under what will be very unusual circumstances, enthusiastically (and punnily) replied, "Count me in."

On this year's ballot, you will have the opportunity to vote for one candidate for Mayor and up to two candidates for Town Council. There are two candidates for Mayor: Tracey Furman, who is seeking re-election to her third term, and Pete Fosselman, who previously served as mayor from 2006-2016. There are three candidates for the two Town Council positions: Bridget Hill-Zayat, who is seeking re-election to a second term; Nate Engle, a resident of Baltimore St. and a moderator on the Kensington list-serv; and Jon Gerson, who previously served as a council member from 1982-84.

If you don't already know these candidates, we would encourage you to get to know them in the coming weeks before casting your ballot. There will be an online Candidate's Forum (discussed separately) on page two. In addition, we are encouraging each candidate to use social media and other safe ways of interacting with residents to promote their campaign in lieu of many of the in-person interactions that our previous elections have featured.

The Mayor and Council introduced Ordinance No. O-03-2020 at the April 20, 2020 Town Council Meeting:

An Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council Amending Chapter II, "Government and Administration", Article 2, "Elections", Section 2-202, "Distribution of Absentee Ballots", Section 2-203, "Procedures of Absentee Ballots", and Section 2-204, "Canvassing of Absentee Ballots" of the Town Code to delete any requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot.

The Public Record will remain open for continued discussion at the June 8, 2020, 7:00 pm, Town Council Meeting.

Election & Candidate Forum

Candidate Forum
Saturday, May 23 • 3pm
ZOOM (invitation only)

2020 Town Election Candidates

Mayor

Tracey Furman (incumbent)

Pete Fosselman

Town Council

(There are two (2) Council seats available)

Bridget Hill-Zayat (incumbent)

Nate Engel

Jon A. Gerson

The Town will be hosting a Candidate Forum on Saturday, May 23, 2020, beginning at 3:00 pm. Due to the ongoing public health pandemic related to COVID-19, the Candidate Forum will be presented through the Zoom video conferencing application. The Candidate Forum will be by invitation only, where email addresses currently listed within the Town's 2020 Directory will receive an email link to view the Candidate Forum live.

The Zoom link will be emailed on Wednesday, May 20 by 4:00 pm. If you do not receive a link to the Candidate Forum, you may request the link by emailing the Town at Town@tok.md.gov. An email requesting a link to the Candidate Forum must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 22.

Please note that a recording of the Candidate Forum will be posted to the Town's website by 4:00 pm on Sunday, May 24, for residents and non-residents interested in viewing the Candidate Forum.

The Candidate Forum will be moderated by Sean McMullen and Rob Sachs. The moderators will be accepting questions in advance of the Candidate Forum and must be submitted by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 22, to the following email: Town@tok.md.gov. We ask that questions be addressed to all candidates and not specific individuals. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions through the Zoom Chat feature following the initial question and answer session by the moderators.

If you have any questions about the Candidate Forum, please contact the Town at Town@tok.md.gov.

Candidate Profiles - Mayor



Tracey Furman
(Incumbent)

Over the past four years as mayor, I have worked tirelessly to support our residents and businesses and to enhance our strong sense of community. As Kensington faces new and different challenges ahead, my priorities remain to lead with a steady hand focusing on resident services, our small businesses, redevelopment, budget and schools.

Shop Local. I have helped to attract nearly 20 new businesses and helped to promote or organize new town events. COVID-19 has disrupted our momentum, but with my strong relationships, I will work hard to make sure our business community has the support they need to come back and be successful.

Redevelopment. When I took office, we were four years into a new Sector Plan without a single redevelopment to show for it. During my tenor, we have seen one project completed, several in different phases, a luxury senior community now under construction, and successfully turned-back an undesired self-storage project.

Budget. My philosophy is: budget conservatively, spend prudently. As a result, we have strong reserves, anticipate a budget surplus at fiscal year-end, and have

implemented spending controls for any future downturn.

Schools. As a parent of three WJ graduates, I know the importance of strong community schools to our parents. I have earned our Town's "seat at the table" by building strong, enduring relationships. I will continue to be engaged as any parent would.

We have accomplished a lot in four years: new businesses, code enforcement, park amenities – and while we continue to navigate through the storm, Kensington is strong and I have the energy and drive to get us to better days. That's why I'm asking for your vote to serve another term as your mayor.

MayorTracey1@gmail.com 301-442-4507

I am running for Mayor again because we need to do better with Town government. Restoring civility in working relationships between Town officials and Townspeople is mandatory. All Council Members should be a part of how the Town is governed.

If elected, my first action will be to initiate an **emergency savings plan** to ensure we are prepared for the deficit of revenues because of COVID19. I intend to **proactively follow the Sector Plan** and source the type of development we want. Kensington needs a **seat at the table with the Board of Education** and boundary discussions. We need to re-establish **strong code enforcement** measures including traffic control as well as regaining the **speed camera revenue** we lost in 2018 (\$100K+ annually) to protect the safety and integrity of the Town. The landscape plan for Connecticut Avenue should be completed and street trees for Plyers Mill Road and Detrick Avenue installed. I will **remove the graffiti** on signs, mailboxes, and bridges throughout the Town.

Going forward, we need someone with the experience to make this change and get us back on track. Having served as the **Mayor for five terms, President of the Maryland Mayors' Association, Maryland's Deputy Secretary of State and now the County's Master Plan Ombudsman**, I am that person. Thank you and I hope I may count on your support. Stay well. – Mayor Pete

Pete@PeteFosselman.com PeteFosselman.com 301-524-0645



Pete Fosselman

Candidate Profiles - Council



Bridget Hill-Zayat
(Incumbent)

My name is Bridget Hill-Zayat. I am a regulated commodities attorney, handling energy, medical cannabis, and alcohol transactions in Maryland. I've lived in Kensington for five years, serving on the council for two, and I am running for re-election in June.

As a Kensington resident and small business owner, I bring a unique perspective to the council. My family and I are relative newcomers to Maryland and Kensington. As a result, I bring a fresh set of eyes to our challenges and can offer a new perspective on potential solutions. Specifically, I think of the proposed storage facility on Connecticut Ave. I was immediately and vocally opposed to that development project from the start. While it's true Kensington has multiple storage facilities and some residents may have been unfazed by their presence, I found the prospect of a new one unappealing. Though contentious, I advocated for a robust legal response to the development, which was ultimately successful.

In coordination with Nate Engle, I will advocate for safer pedestrian and cycling movement in town. As new projects are proposed, we will pay special attention to their impact and potential for improvement as it affects the flow of walkers and cyclists.

To bolster my two years of experience, I will continue to use my professional training as an attorney and master's degree in Public Administration to improve the safety and welfare of residents and businesses here.

bridgettok@gmail.com



Nate Engle

When my wife and I were searching for a place to establish our roots in 2011 after the birth of our first daughter, we came across Kensington and immediately fell in love with its small-town charm and strong community appeal. We've now been a part of the community for nine years, residing first on Warner Street in Kensington Estates, and for the past three years in the "Pitchfork" on Baltimore Street. Over the years, these roots have grown, and so has our family. We now have three daughters; two attending Kensington Parkwood Elementary School and one attending preschool at Temple Emmanuel.

I have spent my career working to help communities at home and abroad improve sustainability and build resilience to climate risks. I am one of the moderators for the "Kensington" listserv and serve as Treasurer and Precinct Official for the District 18 Democratic Caucus.

I'm running for Council in this year's election and would be honored to have your vote. Development is coming to Kensington and our surrounding community. This presents both challenges and opportunities. The main challenge is to ensure that what people love about our Town is maintained. Our opportunity is to leverage new development to make it an even better place to live and work. Helping the Town achieve this balance is what motivates me to run for Council.

My priorities are *Safety, Walkability, Sustainability, and Civility.*

I hope that you will invest your support in me. Please contact me if you have any questions or ideas you wish to discuss: 484-695-6185; nlengle@gmail.com.

Candidate Profiles - Council

Lifelong town resident; spouse (Susan) and two adult sons (Eliot & Scott), all of whom graduated from MCPS

Served on earlier Town Council (1982-84) and currently active volunteer (Dog Park Committee, Labor Day Parade), as well as regular attendee of monthly council meetings

Professional and Related Experience:

- Director of Montgomery County Office of Economic Development, where implemented county's first strategic economic development plan, along with budget, personnel & legal responsibilities associated with managing \$2.7 million government agency; helped employers survive worst recession in 50 years and position for full recovery
- Executive Director of large, regional Chamber of Commerce, providing appreciation for relationship between a healthy economy and quality of life; Quality schools, smart transportation and responsive services are key to attracting residents/commercial tenants, but they rely on tax revenues generated by both residents and businesses
- Director of Community Outreach with Montgomery County Education Association, where worked directly with MCPS (public school) senior leadership on strategies for collaboratively improving the professional learning environment and creating diverse coalitions to accomplish shared goals; in addition, developed strong relationships with key business, civic, minority, non-profit and political leaders, in support of advocacy, education and human service programs

I have come to appreciate the importance of creating a positive environment, in which every person feels respected and individual contributions are cultivated, valued and celebrated. Increasingly, it is my firm belief that relationships with people are key to successfully achieving shared goals and special communities.
301-949-0202 JonaGerson@yahoo.com



Jon A. Gerson

April Council Summary

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of April 20, 2020.
- Announced the Candidates for the June 1, 2020 Town Election:
- Candidates for Mayor:
 - Tracey Furman (Incumbent)
 - Pete Fosselman
- Candidates for Town Council:
 - Bridget Hill-Zayat (Incumbent)
 - Nate Engle
 - Jon A. Gerson
- Confirmed the Election Plan for the June 1, 2020 Town Election, which will be a vote-by-mail election with the option to mail completed ballots or to bring them to Town Hall and place a completed ballot within a secured drop box.
- Discussed applying for a Program Open Space Grant through the State of Maryland to replace the mulched walkway with a brick path and to replace the existing grape arbor at Clum-Kennedy Park.
- Concurred to cancel the 4th of July Bike Parade and the 47th Annual Labor Day Parade and Festival due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Adopted Ordinance No. O-02-2020 - An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property
- Held a Public Hearing on Ordinance No. O-03-2020 - An Ordinance to amend Chapter II, "Government and Administration", Article 2, "Elections", Section 2-202, "Distribution of Absentee Ballots", Section 2-203, "Procedures of Absentee Ballots", and Section 2-204, "canvassing of Absentee Ballots" of the Town Code to delete any requirement that a voter provide a reason for voting by absentee ballot. The Public Record will remain open for continued discussion at the June 8, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

FY21 Budget Ordinance

Budget Ordinance No. O-02-2020

Introduced: March 9, 2020

Adopted: May 11, 2020

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021 (FY21) BUDGET AND TO LEVY A TAX ON CERTAIN REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF §6-203 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS AMENDED.

WHEREAS, §5-205 et seq. of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the Mayor and Town Council to provide for the control and management of its finances and expend money for any public purpose and for the safety, health, and general welfare of the Town and its occupants; and

WHEREAS, §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended), grants authority to municipal corporations to levy a tax on personal property, land, and improvements thereon, within the municipal corporation; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, “Finance”, Section 801, “Fiscal Year”, of the Town Charter states that the Fiscal Year of the Town shall begin on July 1, 2020 and end on June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Section 802, “Proposed Budget”, of the Town Charter states that the Town Manager shall submit to the Council prior to the third Monday in April, a Budget of anticipated revenues, proposed operating expenditures, and proposed capital project expenditures, along with a written financial plan for the succeeding fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, Section 803, “Adoption”, of the Town Charter states that prior to adopting the Budget, the Council shall hold a public hearing following due notice and a favorable vote of at least a majority of the total elected membership of the Council shall be necessary for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington does hereby adopt the following Budget Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021 (FY21) BUDGET AND TO LEVY A TAX ON CERTAIN REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF §6-203 OF THE TAX-PROPERTY ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS AMENDED.

ANTICIPATED REVENUE			
General Property Taxes	\$	1,345,661	
Other Taxes	\$	669,075	
Licenses & Permits	\$	54,558	
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$	285,508	
Fines & Fees	\$	4,000	
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	81,400	
Grants - County & State	\$	-	
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE			\$ 2,440,202
Re-Appropriation	\$	662,726	
TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDS AVAILABLE			\$ 3,102,928
PROPOSED EXPENDITURES			
General Government	\$	1,083,410	
Public Works	\$	887,791	
Public Safety	\$	260,434	
Parks & Recreation	\$	101,250	
Non-Departmental	\$	10,000	
			\$ 2,342,885
Capital Improvement Budget	\$	760,043	
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES			\$ 3,102,928

SECTION 1:

BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, acting under and by virtue of the authority granted to it by §5-205 et seq. of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Article VIII of the Kensington Town Charter, that the budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, be and the same hereby is appropriated and adopted.

SECTION 2:

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, acting under the virtue of the authority granted to it by §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended), and Article VIII of the Kensington Town Charter, hereby levies a tax at the rate of One thousand, three hundred twelve ten-thousandths cents (**\$0.1312**) per One Hundred Dollars of full value assessment on all taxable real property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Kensington.

FY21 Budget Ordinance

SECTION 3:

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, acting under the virtue of the authority granted to it by §6-203 of the Tax-Property Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended), and Article VIII of the Kensington Town Charter, hereby levies a tax at the rate of eighty cents **(\$0.80)** per One Hundred Dollars of full value assessment on all taxable personal property located within the corporate limits of the Town of Kensington.

SECTION 4:

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, acting under the virtue of the authority granted to it by §8-101 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended), and Article VIII of the Kensington Town Charter, hereby levies a tax at the rate of five dollars **(\$5.00)** per One Hundred Dollars of full value assessment on all taxable personal property set forth by §8-101 of the Tax-Property Article, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended):

1. Operating personal property of a railroad;
2. Operating personal property of a public utility that is machinery or equipment used to generate electricity or steam for sale;
3. All other operating personal property of a public utility; and
4. Machinery and equipment, other than operating personal property of a public utility, that is used to generate electricity or steam for sale or hot or chilled water for sale that is used to heat or cool a building.

SECTION 5:

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, hereby adopts the imposition of a full-year, one-half year, three-quarter year, and one-quarter year tax levies, authorized pursuant to §10-102, 10-103, 10-104, and 10-105 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as amended), and authorizes and empowers Montgomery County, Maryland, to collect and remit the same to the Town of Kensington, consistent with the imposition and collection of such levies on real property by Montgomery County.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 11th day of May, 2020, by the Kensington Town Council, acting under and by virtue of the authority granted to it by §5-201 et seq. of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Article VI, "Powers of the Council", Section 601, "General Powers" of the Town Charter that:

- (1) If any part of provision of this ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the part of provision held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof; and
- (2) This ordinance shall take effect on the 1st day of July, 2020, provided the following:
 - (a) Posted at Town Hall by the next business day following introduction; and
 - (b) Posted on the official Town website; and
 - (c) Sent to those persons listed on the official Town email list/mail subscription service; and
 - (d) Published once prior to the public hearing in the Town newsletter or sent by substitute regular mail to newsletter circulation addresses.

INTRODUCED by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, Maryland at the regular public meeting assembled on the 9th day of March, 2020.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, Maryland at the regular public meeting assembled on the 11th day of May, 2020.

EFFECTIVE the 1st day of July, 2020.

TOWN OF KENSINGTON, MARYLAND

ATTEST:

By: _____
Susan C. Engels, Clerk – Treasurer

Tracey C. Furman, Mayor
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Suellen M. Ferguson, Town Attorney

PREVENT THEFT FROM YOUR VEHICLE



Remove all valuables from seats, dashboard and floor.

- Phone
- Purse
- Wallet
- Backpack
- Electronics
- Money
- Briefcase
- Computer
- Keys



KEYS TO SAFETY

- Vehicle doors locked
- Valuables out of sight
- Park in well-lit areas if possible



TO BENEFIT
BethesdaHelp.org



Drop off: Town Hall Parking Lot
SUNDAY, MAY 17 • 10AM-4PM

ITEMS NEEDED

CANS	BOXES	BAGS	NO!
Chicken	Oatmeal	Rice	Expired Food
Tuna	Cereal		Open Food
Vegetables	Shelf Stable Milk	IARS	Glass
Beans	Pasta	Peanut Butter	
Fruit	Mac & Cheese		
Pasta Sauce			

\$20 gift cards from Giant or Safeway
Cash & Checks accepted at drop off. Checks payable to Bethesda Help.

Donations are tax deductible.

To make an online donation go to: BethesdaHelp.org/support-us

Questions or to arrange a TOK porch pickup contact: tok.md.gov/contact-us

SPONSORS



Kensington Around Town May 2020



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

To: