2022 Town Election Information

The 2022 Town Election will be held in person on Monday, June 6, 2022, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, at Town Hall. The term of Mayor Tracey Furman and Council Members Bridget Hill-Zayat and Nate Engle are set to expire June 30, 2022.

Mayor
Tracey Furman

Town Council Candidates for Two Council Member Positions
Nate Engle
Jon A. Gerson
Ann M. Lichter

We understand that many residents may prefer to vote by Absentee Ballot instead of in person on Monday, June 6, 2022. For this reason, the Town will be mailing an Absentee Ballot Application (this is not an actual Ballot) to every registered voter within the Town. If you prefer to vote by Absentee Ballot, the Application must be completed and returned to Susan Engels, Clerk-Treasurer, to receive an actual Absentee Ballot.

We recommend that the Absentee Ballot Application be returned by email to: Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov, or directly to Town Hall at 3710 Mitchell Street, during regular business hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday. Otherwise, the Absentee Ballot Application may be mailed to the following address: Town of Kensington, PO Box 619, Kensington MD 20895.

If you are registered with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, you are registered to vote with the Town of Kensington. If you are not registered with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, you may register directly with the Town for Town Elections only, by completing our Supplemental Registration Form available at the following link: [tok.md.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Supplemental-Registration-Form-FINAL.pdf](tok.md.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Supplemental-Registration-Form-FINAL.pdf) and returning the completed Supplemental Registration Form to Susan Engels by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

**VOTER QUALIFICATION:** Every person who is a citizen of the United States, or who is not a citizen of the United States but is a permanent resident or is authorized to work in the United States, is at least 18 years of age, has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days, and is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter, shall be a qualified voter of the Town and shall be entitled to vote at any or all Town Elections.

Once the Absentee Ballot application has been received by the Clerk-Treasurer, an Absentee Ballot will be mailed to the applicant with detailed instructions. Please follow the instructions carefully. Absentee Ballots may be returned by mail using the enclosed envelope or through the Town’s drop box located at Town Hall. Due to construction at the front entrance of Town Hall, the drop box has been temporarily relocated to the south-east side of the building adjacent to the public parking lot.

**All Absentee Ballots must be received by 9pm on Monday, June 6th, 2022. Ballots received after 9pm will not be counted.**

If you have any questions related to the June 6th Town Election to be held in person, voting by Absentee Ballot or want to clarify if you are registered to vote, you may contact our Clerk-Treasurer, Susan Engels at Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov or by phone 301-949-2424.
A Candidate Forum will be held in person and via Zoom, on Monday, May 23, 2022, beginning at 7:00 pm. Please email Alex Marini, Assistant to the Town Manager, at Alex.Marini@tok.md.gov for the Candidate Forum Zoom link.

The Candidate Forum will be moderated by Rob Sachs. The moderator will be accepting questions in advance of the Candidate Forum and must be submitted by 4:00 pm on Friday, May 20, 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 in person and through the Zoom Chat feature following the initial question and answer session by the moderator.

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

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

A New Jersey native, Karen Merkin has lived in Montgomery County for almost 50 years. An elementary teacher with a Masters Degree in Special Education, art has always been an important part of her life. She enjoys painting in her home studio every day. Karen has loved participating in the Kensington Labor Day Art Show for the past 8 years, and likes to walk around the town looking for new images to paint.

She has several Kensington pieces among her paintings on her website at KarenMerkin.com.

Follow her on Facebook @Karen Merkin-Artist, or Instagram @karen_merkin_art.
In 2020, when I asked for your vote to elect me to a 3rd term as mayor, I promised my energy and drive to navigate our Town through the storm of the COVID pandemic to better days. Two years later, that promise was kept through the tireless efforts of myself, the Town Council, and our Town Staff.

On June 6th, 2022, I’m asking for your vote to re-elect me to a 4th term as Mayor of Kensington. Under my leadership the Town is fiscally healthy, and our business community is thriving, attracting excited entrepreneurs wanting to invest in our community. I am equally proud of how the Town embraces its role as a destination for shopping, restaurants, events, and recreation for the broader Kensington community.

Since the 2020 election, the Town witnessed the completion of two of the largest redevelopment projects in Kensington’s history, the Modena Reserve Senior Living Facility on Metropolitan and the Silver Creek Senior Apartments on Knowles. Through careful planning the Town saw the return of many of our popular outdoor events in 2021 while adding two new events, the Back to School Block Party and Light-up K-Town. This year we will add a Juneteenth event in St Paul Park.

The return and success of these events is testament to the resiliency of Kensington, especially our business community, individual sponsors, our organized social and non-profit groups, and countless volunteers. Thank you to all of you!

Over the next two-years, I will continue to maintain responsible oversight of the Town’s resources while continuing to invest in our parks, community art, pedestrian and bike safety, and our business community through the Town’s Explore Kensington campaign and to continue to advocate for redevelopment that benefits the Town and our residents.

I would be honored to continue to serve as your mayor for the next two years and to continue our efforts in making Kensington such a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.
It has been an honor to serve as your Councilmember for the past two years. The issues that motivated me to run for Town Council in 2020 are as important today as they were then: **connectivity, sustainability, and civility.** I have been championing initiatives that embody these three principles. Here are some of our accomplishments together:

**Established the Town’s Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group:**
- Led a comprehensive walkability & bikeability audit; developed recommendations with significant resident input that are shaping Town Council and staff decisions
- Secured a $55,000 grant from Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to engage our community on connectivity and safety improvements along Connecticut Avenue
- Attained Maryland Bicycling and Pedestrian Priority Area designation for Kensington, denoting us as a high potential/need area for bicycling and walking improvements; collaborative planning begins this summer
- Inaugurated Kensington’s “Walktober” event to raise awareness around pedestrian improvements

**Advocated for and delivered “green” solutions:**
- Generated buy-in for energy efficiency and green building standards in the development review process
- Worked with Pepco to bring electric vehicle charging stations to Town Hall and Kensington MARC station
- Helped increase access to composting

**Tackled issues that improve government processes, collaboration across jurisdictions, and public engagement:**
- Improved election procedures and voting access
- Strengthened Town partnerships with:
  - Montgomery County Department of Transportation
  - Montgomery Parks and Planning
  - State Highway Administration
  - Maryland Legislative District 18 Delegation
  - Surrounding neighborhoods

I humbly ask for your vote again on June 6th so that I can continue to strengthen **connectivity, sustainability, and civility** across Kensington. **If re-elected, I’ll work tirelessly to deliver on these and other important issues for our community.** As always, please reach out to me with questions or to discuss any interests or concerns. 

**NLEngle@gmail.com**  484-695-6185

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**Ride On Bus**

Effective Monday, May 9, Montgomery County Ride On Route 4 (Silver Spring – Kensington) was extended to Wheaton on weekdays. There is no mid-day or weekend service.

**Wheaton – Silver Spring**  **Silver Spring – Wheaton**

5:50 am – 9:55 am  5:55 am – 10:05 am
1:35 pm – 7:05 pm  1:50 pm – 7:10 pm

For more information, telephone 311 or visit online at **RideOnBus.com.** All rides are free until at least July 2, 2022.
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 (Chair – Greenscape Committee, Racial Justice Committee, 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, helping employers survive worst recession in 50 years and position for full recovery.
- **Executive Director of large, regional Chamber of Commerce**, receiving national recognition for championing relationship between a healthy economy and quality of life. Quality schools, smart transportation, safe neighborhoods and responsive services are key to attracting residents/commercial tenants, but rely on tax revenues generated by both residents and businesses.

I recognize the importance of maintaining a positive environment, in which every person feels respected and individual contributions are cultivated, valued and celebrated. I believe relationships with people are key to successfully achieving shared goals and creating special communities.

**JonAGerson@yahoo.com 301-949-0202**

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I’ve lived in Kensington with my husband and three children since 2010. We moved here because we wanted to live in a walkable neighborhood with parks, libraries, shops, transit, and good public schools. We feel fortunate that our kids are growing up here, going first to Noyes Library on their own and now to local businesses.

I am running for Town Council because I want to help Kensington become an even more welcoming, vibrant, and walkable community. I care about promoting smart development that helps existing businesses and attracts new ones while minimizing the impact on traffic and the environment. I want to ensure we preserve and enhance our green space and tree canopy, as well as affordable and attainable housing options. And I want to make sure that we actively engage everyone in our town, including apartment residents.

I bring people together to get things done. In 2017, I convened neighbors to advocate for Warner Circle Park. We defined principles for future use of the property, organized events like Opera in the Circle, and worked with local officials towards a viable solution. Now we have an agreement that will preserve the historic mansion as residential condos and public access to the park. In 2020, I joined with neighbors to start the Kensington Racial Justice Committee. We’ve launched a project to document our local racial history, organized events like the Back-to-School Block Party at Kensington House, and worked to bring diverse perspectives to the bike and pedestrian study.

Professionally, I’ve been a lawyer, a career federal executive, a nonprofit leader, and a consultant. I listen, follow up, and focus on practical solutions. I would be honored to have your support. Please contact me with any questions or ideas you wish to discuss.

**AnnLichtertok@gmail.com 202-277-2509**
Like most Americans, Jamie Boston thought he knew what was in the Emancipation Proclamation. When he sat down with his young daughters to read it all the way through— in preparation for his family’s Juneteenth celebration last year—the retired combat veteran and U.S. Army JAG found an entirely different document than he expected.

Lincoln’s 1863 Proclamation “wasn’t so much about freeing slaves, it did that to a degree” Boston reflected, “but it was really an invention by President Lincoln to create presidential war powers.” The Proclamation, he said, was intended to free enslaved people and outlaw slavery in the rebel states to diminish the resources and manpower that slavery provided, and to allow enslaved people to join the Union army. Thus, the goal was ultimately to defeat the rebellion.

“When one reads the Emancipation Proclamation,” Boston explained, “one soon realizes that the states who had slaves but were in support of the Union were generally left alone.”

One of the states left alone by the Proclamation was in fact Maryland, which did not abolish slavery until one year later, in 1864. Understanding that emancipation was a political tool that did not end slavery in Maryland shapes our understanding of the past—and the present. “This is the part that’s glossed over,” said Boston, referring to the myth that Emancipation brought true freedom for everyone. “There’s more to the story and this complete story is ALL Americans’ history.”

Boston was inspired by his family’s celebration of Juneteenth last year to make the history of Juneteenth come alive for a broader audience. A Kensington resident since 2020, after being encouraged by his neighbor, State Delegate Emily Shetty, and then being connected with Councilmember Nate Engle, Boston was introduced to Mayor Tracey Furman and the Racial Justice Committee, who enthusiastically agreed to bring Juneteenth to the Town of Kensington.

“The Federal holiday of Juneteenth commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States,” said Mayor Furman. “We want to celebrate emancipation in Kensington, of course, and to celebrate the diversity of our community, but we also want to recognize that there is still work to be done.”

When asked why he wanted to bring his celebration to Kensington, Boston spoke of his love for his new hometown, the fact that his neighbors were “all different colors of the rainbow,” and the strong sense of community that was a gift to him and his family when they settled here.

On a more somber note, Boston also spoke of the polarization gripping the nation, the ways in which political differences have been essentialized, making it hard for people to make overtures across the aisle and create fellowship. “It will take a community like Kensington to bring this divided country back together,” he said. “We just have to start talking.”

The celebration, scheduled to take place in St. Paul Park on June 18 from 12:00-4:00 p.m., will feature food vendors, beverages, informational booths, historical reenactors, and free live and DJ music from gospel, jazz, folklore, and contemporary genres. And of course, there will be a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.

“Fun with a purpose,” said Boston.

Don’t miss the Town of Kensington’s Inaugural Juneteenth Celebration, taking place June 18, 2022 from 12:00-4 p.m., in St. Paul Park, with a rain date of June 19th. The street address of the park is 10564 St. Paul Street, Kensington, MD 20895.
Board of Directors selects new President: Paul Sexton has been selected as President of the KHS Board of Directors. Paul is a life-long resident of Kensington and has many fond memories of walking around town as a child so he’s very familiar with the projects that KHS has been engaged in over the years. He lives and works in Kensington and has been involved with many aspects of Town programs. Julie O’Malley, who served as KHS President for years, continues on the Board as Immediate Past President.

KHS welcomes new Kensington residents: The Program and Seminar Committee, under the capable leadership of Patti Poss, presented a slide show discussion highlighting the key historical and cultural sites around Kensington for residents of Modena and Silver Creek. Many of the residents are new to Kensington and they were very interested to learn about the history of the Town as well as many of the events and activities sponsored by KHS, the Town, and other Kensington organizations. We are so happy to have these communities and their residents in Kensington and look forward to having them engaged in KHS and Town activities in the future.

This presentation will be used periodically to introduce Kensington to new residents of Town and will, ultimately, be recorded so we have it available for use in the future.

Archives project begun: As mentioned in prior articles KHS is working to better organize and preserve the material in our archives as well as have a process for bringing in new material. We are fortunate to have Peter Barnhard working as a volunteer in the archives. He is pursuing a masters in information science at Rutgers and has been studying the mechanisms behind preservation in courses such as Manuscripts and Archives, Metadata, Cataloging Classification, Information Technology and Archives preservation. He has started by digitizing the archive material. We are looking forward to the results of his work.

Concert Series starts soon: By the time the Journal gets to your home it will only be weeks until the first of the summer concert series. Come by and enjoy the music and talk with a KHS member about how you can get engaged with KHS.

Summer Concert Series  |  Saturdays 10-11  |  Howard Avenue Park

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, 2022, and end on June 30, 2023; 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:


SECTION 1:

BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED this 9th day of May, 2022, 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, 2022 through June 30, 2023, 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 9th day of May, 2022, 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.
SECTION 3:
AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 9th day of May, 2022, 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 9th day of May, 2022, 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 9th day of May, 2022, 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 9th day of May, 2022, by the Kensington Town Council that the transfer of funds by Resolution within the Operating and Capital Improvements Budget may occur.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this 9th day of May, 2022, 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, 2022, 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 14th day of March, 2022.

ADOPTED by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, Maryland at the regular public meeting assembled on the 9th day of May, 2022.

EFFECTIVE the 1st day of July, 2022.

The Mayor and Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (FY23) Budget Ordinance at the May 9, 2022 Town Council Meeting. The Detailed Budget may be viewed at the following link:
tok.md.gov/town-budget
May 9, 2022 Town Council Meeting (held in person and by Zoom Video Conferencing)

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2022.
- Announced the Candidates for the June 6, 2022, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Town Election:

  Mayor
  Tracey Furman

  Town Council
  (Two Council Seats)
  Nate Engle
  Jon A. Gerson
  Ann M. Lichter

The Candidate Forum will be held in person, and via Zoom, on Monday, May 23, 2022, 7:00 pm.

Voters have the option to vote in person at Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Monday, June 6, 2022, or to vote by Absentee Ballot.

- Adopted Ordinance No. O-02-2022 - An Ordinance to appropriate and adopt the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY23) Budget and to levy a tax on certain real and personal property.
- Approved Resolution No. R-11-2022 – A Resolution to confirm the appointment of Robin Watson to the Board of Supervisors of Elections.
- Approved Resolution No. R-12-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Whitman Requardt and Associates, LLP, to provide engineering services to assist in the request for proposal process for the maintenance and repair of three bridges located in the Town and to provide project management services.
- Approved Resolution No. R-13-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Approving a Variance for a fence to exceed four (4’) feet in height within the front plane of the property on land zoned for single-family use at 3910 Warner Street.
- Approved Resolution No. R-14-2022 - A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council Authorizing the Town Manager to contract for the installation of a speed hump along the 10800 block of St. Paul Street.

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.

10221 Montgomery Avenue - Dumpster
3514 Decatur Avenue - Storage Container
3944 Baltimore Street - Addition
3519 Decatur Avenue - Retaining Wall
10401 Armory Avenue - Renovation
4000 Knowles Avenue - Utility Pole
4000 Knowles Avenue - Washington Gas
10449 Metropolitan Avenue - Fence
3603 Farragut Avenue - Fence
10609 Nash Place - Porch and Deck
3714 Farragut Avenue - Washington Gas
3500 Dupont Avenue - Retaining Wall
10608 St. Paul Paul - Right-of-Way
10401 Armory Avenue - Dumpster
Town Happenings

Kensington
FOOD TRUCK NIGHTS!
Third Thursdays • 5-8pm
Enjoy dinner with your community from a variety of food trucks at 10417 Armory Avenue.
- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- Aug 18
- Sept 15
- Oct 20

Sponsored by KBDA • Facebook @KtownFoodTruckNight

KENSINGTON INAUGURAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION
Family Fun with a Purpose

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 12–4PM

SPONSORED BY THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON AND THE RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Visit: TOK.md.gov/Events–Calendar/Juneteenth–Celebration

Visit TOK.md.gov/Events for event details.
Kensington Around Town
May 2022

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

To:

Every Saturday
9am - 1pm
3701 Howard Avenue
ExploreKensington.com

The Kensington Historical Society
presents
The 2022 Summer Concert Series

Saturdays
10 - 11am
June through September
Howard Avenue Park