

# Kensington Around Town

April 2025



## 18th Annual Kensington Day of the Book Festival

Sunday, April 27 • 11am - 4pm

[DayOfTheBook.com](http://DayOfTheBook.com)



## TRASH TO TREASURE

Saturday, April 26 • 9am-1pm

[TOK.md.gov/event/trash-to-treasure-25](http://TOK.md.gov/event/trash-to-treasure-25)



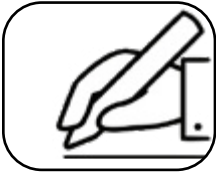
## KENSINGTON JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Family Fun with a Purpose

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025  
12-4pm

[TOK.MD.GOV/EVENTS](http://TOK.MD.GOV/EVENTS)

# Town Council Summary



## Tuesday, February 15, 2025 Town Council Meeting

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2025.
- Approved the Closed Session Town Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2025.
- Acknowledged a Closed Session was held on January 24, 2025, pursuant to State Government Article §3-305 (b)(7), "Closed Session", to consult with the Town Attorney with regards to legislative bill MC 116-25 and proposed amendments by the Montgomery County Delegation and Montgomery Planning.
- Held a Public Hearing on [Ordinance No. O-01-2025](#) - Authorizing the Sale of Certain Real Property located at 3420 Pliers Mill Road, Kensington, Maryland, that is no longer needed for a public purpose.
- The Public Hearing will remain open until 4:00 pm on Friday, March 7, 2025.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-02-2025](#) – Authorizing a Contribution in the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) from the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY25) Budget to the Noyes Children’s Library Foundation for the Restoration and Renovation project at Noyes Children’s Library.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-03-2025](#) – Confirming Appointments made by the Mayor to the Town Ethics Commission.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-04-2025](#) – Authorizing the Donation of a surplus vehicle, 2008 Ford F-250 (1FTNF21538EE35863), from the Public Works Department to the Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-05-2025](#) – Authorizing the Purchase of a new 2025 Ford F-350 for the Public Works Department, per a Bid Contract (0004504) awarded by Baltimore County, to Apple Ford, LLC, in the amount of \$60,819.30.

## Introduced and Adopted Ordinances

The Mayor and Council introduced **Ordinance No. O-03-2025** at the March 12 Council Meeting. Public hearing on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30pm. View the ordinance at [TOK.md.gov/ordinance-no-o-03-2025-introduced/](https://tok.md.gov/ordinance-no-o-03-2025-introduced/)  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF KENSINGTON TO AMEND CHAPTER V, "HOUSING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS", BY ENACTING ARTICLE 7, "TRANSIENT LODGING FACILITIES", TO INCORPORATE CHAPTER 54, OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE ENTITLED "TRANSIENT LODGING FACILITIES", WHICH CONTAINS VARIOUS PROVISIONS TO PROTECT, REGULATE AND LICENSE HOTELS, BED AND BREAKFAST, AND SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

The Mayor and Council adopted **Ordinance No. O-01-2025** at the March 12 Council Meeting. View the ordinance at [TOK.md.gov/ordinance-no-o-01-2025-adopted/](https://tok.md.gov/ordinance-no-o-01-2025-adopted/)  
AMENDED ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 3420 PLYERS MILL ROAD, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND, THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE.

## Building & Town Permits

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.

3500 Kent Street - Storage Pod  
3512 Perry Avenue - Storage Pod  
10305 Armory Avenue - Addition  
3929 Baltimore Street - Alteration  
10810 Connecticut Avenue - Alteration  
10401 Metropolitan Avenue - Detached Garage

# 2025 Town Election



The 2025 Town Election will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm, at Town Hall. The terms for Council Members Darin Bartram and Conor Crimmins are set to expire June 30, 2025. All have the option of running for re-election.

If more than 2 candidates are running for the 2 open council seats, a Candidates Forum will be held on Monday, May 19, at 7 p.m at Town Hall and on Zoom.

If you are interested in running for Town Council, nominations for elective office are available at Town Hall by filing a Certificate of Nomination with the Town's Clerk-Treasurer, Susan Engels at [Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov](mailto:Susan.Engels@tok.md.gov).

## Notable Deadlines:

- Candidate nominations are due Monday, May 12, 2025 by 4pm.
- County voter registration for the Town election closes on Monday, April 28, 2025.
- Voter registration for Town elections only closes on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 4pm.

Please contact Town staff with any questions at 301-949-2424 or [Town@tok.md.gov](mailto:Town@tok.md.gov).

## KHS Presents:

### How Streetcars Shaped Kensington

Tuesday, April 8 • 7:00 pm



Kensington recently celebrated the history of the B&O Railroad and its role in the Town's development, but did you know there once was a streetcar line that brought people from Chevy Chase to Kensington?

Join KHS for a fascinating look at the history of streetcars in Kensington and Chevy Chase. The presentation will explore the significant role streetcars played in the development and growth of our area, offering a unique glimpse into this important aspect of our local history and the people it served.

This engaging discussion is open to all history enthusiasts and those interested in the legacy of streetcars in our region. KHS extends a special invitation to members of the Chevy Chase Historical Society and its town residents as we explore our joint history.

**Speaker:** Eric Madison, Executive Director of the National Capital Trolley Museum.

Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

## Two ways to attend:

- Drill Hall, Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
- Virtual Zoom link: [us02web.zoom.us/j/83214596940?pwd=PWpPeaOIZWzrbS7AKKLWyl5DpSpEIX.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83214596940?pwd=PWpPeaOIZWzrbS7AKKLWyl5DpSpEIX.1) Meeting ID: 832 1459 6940, Passcode: 501798)

This event is free of charge. An RSVP to [Info@kensingtonhistory.com](mailto:Info@kensingtonhistory.com) is appreciated for planning purposes, but not essential for admittance.

# Benefits of Art Class

## The Benefits of Taking Art Classes

by Glen Kessler, Compass Art Center

These days it can be hard to find safe spaces where you can feel empowered, stimulated creatively, and surrounded by positive like-minded individuals. Art classes can offer just such a forum. For anyone looking to explore their creativity, develop their artistic skills, or simply enjoy a relaxing and fulfilling hobby where they are in charge of what happens in 'their world' for a few hours each week, taking a painting class at Kensington's newest art hub Compass Art Center is an excellent choice. The Center is host to THREE schools of the highest caliber: one for kids, one for teens, and one for adults. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced artist, a structured class provides a supportive and inspiring environment to help you grow as a painter. With expert instruction, a welcoming community, and a wide range of classes to suit different interests and skill levels, painting and drawing classes offer numerous benefits to students of all backgrounds.

**Expert Guidance and Instruction** One of the greatest advantages of taking an art class is the opportunity to learn from skilled instructors. Experienced artists who are passionate about sharing their knowledge help students refine their techniques. Whether you are learning the basics of color mixing and brush control or exploring advanced composition and perspective, the guidance of a knowledgeable instructor ensures that you receive valuable feedback and instruction tailored to your level.

**A Structured Learning Experience** Unlike self-guided learning, where progress can be slow and directionless, painting classes provide a structured approach to skill development. Classes follow a curriculum designed to introduce new techniques in a logical sequence, helping students build a strong foundation in painting. This structured learning approach prevents frustration and confusion, making it easier for students to see steady improvement in their work.

**A Creative and Supportive Community** Art is often a solitary activity, but taking a class allows students to connect with like-minded individuals who share their passion. Being part of a creative community fosters motivation, inspiration, and a sense of belonging. Students can share ideas, offer encouragement, and learn from one another, creating a dynamic and engaging learning experience. Many lifelong friendships are formed in art classes, making the journey of artistic growth even more enjoyable.

**Personal Growth and Relaxation** Painting is not just about creating beautiful artwork—it is also a deeply rewarding and therapeutic experience. Taking a painting class provides an opportunity to relax, reduce stress, and develop mindfulness through artistic expression. Many students find that painting helps them disconnect from the pressures of daily life, allowing them to immerse themselves in a creative and meditative process.



Taking painting and drawing classes at Kensington's own Compass Art Center can offer a wealth of benefits, from expert instruction and structured learning to a supportive community and access to top-quality materials. Whether you are looking to enhance your artistic skills or simply find joy in creative expression, these classes provide an enriching and inspiring experience that can be both personally and artistically fulfilling. Visit [CompassArtCenter.com](http://CompassArtCenter.com) for more.

# Best of Bethesda



Best of Bethesda is an annual readers' poll and awards program that recognizes the best businesses, places, and people in Montgomery County, Maryland, and Upper Northwest D.C. The program is run by Bethesda Magazine.

This year Kensington's **Compass Art Center** was pleased to be awarded **Editors' Picks Winner** for 'Best New Place Where Everyone Can Be Creative! Plus, Compass Art Center was featured in a two-page write-up in the magazine! Visit [BethesdaMagazine.com/2024/12/26/editors-picks-arts-culture](https://BethesdaMagazine.com/2024/12/26/editors-picks-arts-culture) to read more.

Kensington also had six Readers' Picks winners, meaning they were chosen by Bethesda Magazine readers as the best in that category. Visit [BethesdaMagazine.com/best-of-bethesda](https://BethesdaMagazine.com/best-of-bethesda) where you'll also find 242 great places to go, things to do and more, as chosen by their editors and readers.

Additionally, Kensington businesses were listed in 18 Readers' Picks Finalists categories, meaning they were chosen by Bethesda Magazine readers as #2, #3 or #4 in that category.

## EDITORS' PICKS 2025 WINNERS

### Arts & Culture:

Best New Place Where Everyone Can Be Creative  
[Compass Art Center](#)

## READERS' PICKS 2025 WINNERS

### Food & Drink

Coffee Shop - [Java Nation](#)  
Dog-Friendly Restaurant/Bar - [Java Nation](#)  
Pizza - [Frankly...Pizza!](#)

### Shopping & Services:

Dog Walking Service - [A Walk in the Park](#)

### Home & Garden:

HVAC Company -  
[Davis & Davis Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.](#)

## READERS' PICKS 2025 FINALISTS

### Health & Wellness:

Senior Living Community - [Kensington Park](#)

### Food & Drink:

Beer Selection - [BabyCat Brewery](#)  
Brewery - [BabyCat Brewery](#)  
Brunch - [Java Nation](#)

Farmers Market - [Kensington Farmers' Market](#)  
Ice Cream Shop - [Carmen's Italian Ice & Cafe](#)  
Restaurant in Garrett Park/Kensington -  
[Frankly...Pizza!](#)

### Things to Do:

Trivia Night - [BabyCat Brewery](#)

### Kids & Schools:

Martial Arts School -  
[Black Belt Martial Arts Center](#)

### Shopping & Services:

Antiques and Vintage Store - [Modern Mobler](#)  
Pet Boutique/Specialty Store - [Pets Are Home](#)  
Pet Day Care - [A Walk in the Park](#)

### Home & Garden:

Architect for Home Renovation -  
[Jendell Construction, Inc.](#)  
Builder for Home Renovation -  
[Jendell Construction, Inc.](#)  
Contractor for Outdoor Living Spaces -  
[Jendell Construction, Inc.](#)  
Custom Draperies/Window Treatment-  
[Budget Blinds](#)  
Garden Center/Nursery -  
[Johnson's Florist & Garden Centers](#)  
Kitchen Design Firm -  
[Jendell Construction, Inc.](#)

Explore Kensington's vibrant  
and welcoming business community.

Explore  
KENSINGTON

Unique Shopping, Dining, Arts & Events

[ExploreKensington.com](https://ExploreKensington.com)

# Town Archives



## Tips from the Archivist: Better Storage for Your Precious Records

by Lisa Carney, Kensington Town Archivist

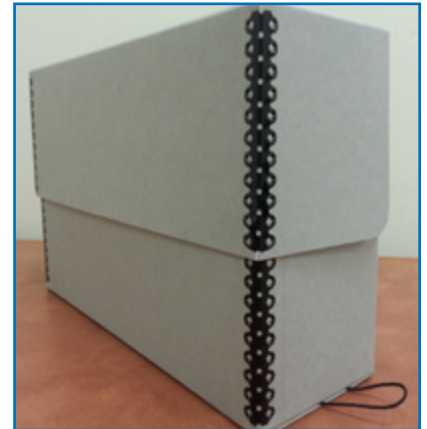
Do you have family records that you'd like to organize, but don't know where to begin? Whether you're sorting through a shoebox of keepsakes or an attic full of boxes, taking a few simple steps now can ensure your family history is preserved for generations.



One of the most impactful steps you can take to preserve family collections is to improve storage conditions. In archives and museums, this is called "preventative conservation." —protecting materials from environmental damage before it happens. While all physical objects age over time, factors like **light, temperature changes, humidity, and pests** can speed up the process.

### The Right Boxes: Choosing the Best Storage for Your Documents

If you can afford them, specialty archival boxes are the best way to protect your records. Reputable brands include Gaylord Archival, Hollinger, Talas, and University Products. It's important to measure your materials before you purchase a box, because you'll want a close fit so nothing is sagging, sliding, or crammed inside.



However, if new boxes aren't in your budget, any box is better than no box at all. If your documents are sitting exposed on a desk or shelf, placing them in a container will protect them from **UV light, dust, insects, and accidental spills**. If you don't have the budget for archive-quality boxes, work with what you have on hand. It is most important to have materials in a box with a well-fitting lid and no gaps, such as handle-holes.

### Cardboard vs. Plastic: What's Best?

- **Cardboard boxes** are affordable, but most are acidic, which can cause paper to **yellow and become brittle** over time.
- **Plastic bins** may seem like a better option, but they off-gas chemicals, and can trap moisture, leading to mold, mildew, or rust on metal fasteners.
- If cardboard boxes are your best option, **place them on shelves at least five inches off the floor** to protect from moisture and pests.
- If using plastic, invest in **humidity testing strips** and add **silica gel packets** (like the ones found in shoe boxes) to absorb excess moisture.

For an extra layer of protection, consider using **archival-quality acid-free folders** inside any box. Look for "buffered" folders, which help **neutralize acidity and slow deterioration**.

### Where to Store: The Best Locations for Long-Term Preservation

Boxed or unboxed, the best location for your records is in a dark, temperature and humidity-controlled environment, to protect from fading, and extreme heat, cold, or humidity. When possible, avoid garages and attics in favor of a shelf or cabinet on the main floor of your home.

# Town Archives

The ideal storage environment is:

- **Cool (between 60–70°F)**
- **Moderately dry** (relative humidity between **30–50%**)
- **Dark** (to prevent fading and weakening from UV exposure)

BUT, the **realistic** home storage environment is:

- **Easily accessible**
- **Consistent year-round**

It's most important to keep temperature and humidity relatively constant because extreme fluctuations cause paper to expand and contract, creating additional pressure on documents.

If you don't have space or the ability to move all your records, **start with your most precious items**. Ask yourself: If I had to evacuate my home, what would I grab first? Prioritize these records for the best storage conditions.

## **Take it One Step at a Time**

Even small improvements can make a big difference over time. **Pick one task today** – future generations will thank you!

*Look for more tips in upcoming newsletters.*



# Local Man Creates Documentary

Kensington resident, Paul Wagner, has been covering murders, murder mysteries, cold cases and anything else that makes news in the city of Washington since 1981. Paul spent 11 years with WTOP NewsRadio and 21 years with WTTG Fox 5. He currently covers crime and courts at NBC's WRC-TV, NBC4.

Paul would like to share with Kensington residents his documentary, '5 Days on the Pile,' the story of two ordinary men and the search for survivors at Ground Zero. This is a film that pays tribute to the volunteers who showed up and the people who perished.

His documentary is now streaming on Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV.

View the trailer at [5daysonthepile.com](http://5daysonthepile.com).



# FY26 Budget Ordinance



The Public Hearing for FY25 Budget Ordinance will be held April 9, 2025, 7:30 pm.  
FY26 Budget Ordinance No. O-02-2025 is available at the following link:

[TOK.md.gov/town-budget](https://TOK.md.gov/town-budget)

**Budget Ordinance No. O-02-2025**

**Introduced: March 12, 2025**

**Public Hearing: April 9, 2025**

**Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF KENSINGTON TO APPROPRIATE AND ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 – 2026 (FY26) 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.

**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, 2025, and end on June 30, 2026; 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 2025 – 2026 (FY26) 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.



# FY26 Budget Ordinance con't

FY26 Budget - Town of Kensington			
<b>ANTICIPATED REVENUE</b>			
	General Property Taxes	\$	1,751,901
	Other Taxes	\$	801,000
	Licenses & Permits	\$	45,200
	Intergovernmental Revenues	\$	490,929
	Fines & Fees	\$	3,000
	Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	266,500
	Grants	\$	-
	<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUE</b>		<b>\$3,358,530</b>
	Re-Appropriation	\$	1,607,770
	<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>		<b>\$4,966,300</b>
<b>PROPOSED EXPENDITURES</b>			
	General Government	\$	1,514,372
	Public Works	\$	1,226,737
	Public Safety	\$	347,534
	Parks & Recreation	\$	199,500
	Non-Departmental	\$	25,000
			<b>\$3,313,144</b>
	Capital Improvement Budget	\$	1,653,156
	<b>TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$4,966,300</b>

**SECTION 1:**

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ORDERED** this \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 2025, through June 30, 2026, 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 \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 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 \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 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.

Continued on Page 10

# FY26 Budget Ordinance con't

## SECTION 4:

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED**, this \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 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:

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 \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 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 \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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 \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025, 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, 2025, 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 12th day of March, 2025.

**ADOPTED** by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, Maryland at the regular public meeting assembled on the \_\_\_\_ day of May, 2025.

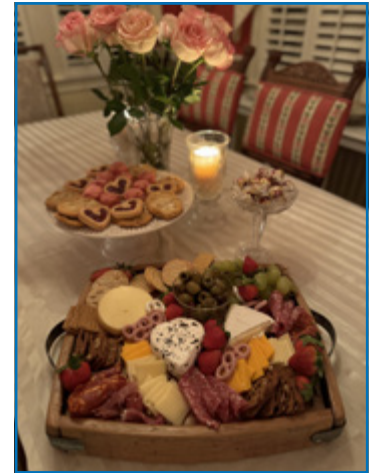
**EFFECTIVE** the 1st day of July, 2025.

# KTown Ladies



Happy March! The K-Town ladies celebrated friendship and community at our first Galentine's Party at the home of Kyle Richards. We enjoyed cocktails and treats, a cozy fire, and a festive gift exchange. It was a fun night filled with laughter, warmth, and appreciation for each other and the Kensington community.

Mark your calendar for our annual Trash to Treasure event on April 26. Join us on June 8th for a Flower Arranging Fete with Petal to the Metal Florist. Follow the KTown Ladies on social media: FB @[KTownLadiesGuild](https://www.facebook.com/KTownLadiesGuild); Insta [@ktownladies](https://www.instagram.com/ktownladies).



# Did You Know?

In 2024, Station 5 units were dispatched to 5,099 calls for service. Thanks to your incredible support, KVFD was able to complete vital upgrades to Ambulance 705 and expand training and other operational budgets.

Let's make 2025 even stronger! Every donation enhances our ability to serve and protect our neighbors.

Donate now at [KVFD.org/donate](https://www.kvfd.org/donate).



# Donate Blood to NIH



The NIH BLOOD BANK is in need of A+, O+, O- and B- Blood Donors. Please call or go online to schedule an appointment.  
NIH BLOOD BANK BLOOD DONATION 301-496-1048  
PLATELET DONATION 301-496-4321  
Website: [CC.nih.gov/bloodbank](https://cc.nih.gov/bloodbank)

# Kensington Historical Society



## What do all those wonderful words refer to?

by Kate DeWitt, Kensington Historical Society

- **Semiquincentennial**
- **Bissequincentennial**
- **Sesteerquincentennial**
- **Quarter Millennial**

They are the different words that can be used for the United States of America's 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence to be celebrated in 2026! In all fifty States plans are being made for this event. In most States Commissions have been created to spearhead the commemoration.

**Maryland:** In Maryland, the Governor has appointed the Maryland Two Fifty Commission to coordinate state-wide efforts. Visit [MDTwoFifty.maryland.gov](http://MDTwoFifty.maryland.gov).

The stated objective of the Commission:

*"In anticipation of America's 250th anniversary, we're opening the pages of some of our most iconic accomplishments, from the oyster farms of the Chesapeake Bay to the mountain peaks out west. Beyond the legends we all know well, we'll explore stories of everyday Marylanders who served our country and helped democracy prosper through civic engagement. We're honored to commemorate our deep and meaningful contribution to America's past, present, and future by retracing Maryland's illustrious history"*

The intent is to recognize and celebrate key events, persons and historic sites in Maryland throughout its history. Counties and historic organizations are developing their own versions of this. The Commission will be posting all these programs on its web site over the next two years.

**Montgomery County:** Montgomery History has been tasked by the County to take the lead for County-wide programs. Visit [MontgomeryHistory.org](http://MontgomeryHistory.org).

According to the Montgomery History website:

*"Montgomery County was founded in 1776 when Dr. Thomas Sprigg Wootton, a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, introduced a bill to the Maryland General Assembly to divide a much-larger Frederick County into three smaller counties; Frederick, Washington, and Montgomery. The bill passed on September 6, 1776. Montgomery County was named for General Richard Montgomery, a Revolutionary War hero who died in action in 1775 fighting for the Continental Army in Quebec. Montgomery and Washington counties were the first in the nation established by elected representatives, and the first in Maryland named for popular Americans as opposed to old world monarchs.*

*As we approach this milestone in our national and local history, we have an opportunity to collectively share a deeper appreciation for our history: to acknowledge our faults, celebrate our successes, and work together toward a future that includes diverse perspectives and celebrates the contributions of all.*

*Montgomery History, along with its partners, is celebrating Montgomery County's 250th anniversary with several ambitious projects, events, and activities over the next two years."*

You can visit the Montgomery History web site to see the many projects that are being initiated. An important theme of the Unfinished Revolution and the Black Resistance Oral History Initiative, for example, is to add to our knowledge of our history. There are opportunities to contribute to this record.

**Kensington:** Kensington Historical Society (KHS) has been engaged with both the County and State

# Kensington Historical Society

projects. KHS has attended Maryland Two Fifty Commission zoom meetings of historical societies and other organizations from around the State. At the County level we have been involved in the development of the Unfinished Revolution Project which will update the historical record as well as refresh A Grateful Remembrance published in 1976. KHS will stay in touch with the County and State efforts throughout this year and pass along updates. We encourage you to bookmark both organizations web sites so that you can keep yourself up to date on programs of interest.

If you have any ideas about how Kensington could celebrate this special anniversary, please pass along your ideas to any member of the KHS Board and we will see that they are collected and shared with the Town. Additionally, KHS and the Kensington Town Archives are rolling out our own Oral History project so that we can collect stories about our Kensington history.

We have plans for a special event in 2026 that will draw visitors from around the State to our Town to appreciate our wonderful Victorian Garden community. Stay tuned – details coming soon!

[KensingtonHistory.org](http://KensingtonHistory.org)

## Spotted Lanternfly

The Spotted lanternfly is an invasive planthopper native to Asia. It feeds on a wide range of plants and excretes a sticky, sugary fluid that causes sooty mold, which can further damage plants. Its feeding has not killed plants (except for grapes). It is primarily a threat to Maryland's agricultural crops.

### How You Can Help Stop the Spread of the Spotted Lanternfly

Stop their migration! From September through December, the female prefers to lay her egg masses on a host tree, however, she may also deposit eggs on the surface of vehicles. Inspect your vehicles, trailers and any other movable items on your property and make sure your vehicles are clear of SLFs before moving them. Act NOW, eggs typically hatch in April. Scrape and secure the eggs in a sealed bag and dispose in the garbage.



### What to do if you find Spotted Lanternflies in Maryland

Snap a photo.

Squash it immediately.

Report your sighting to:

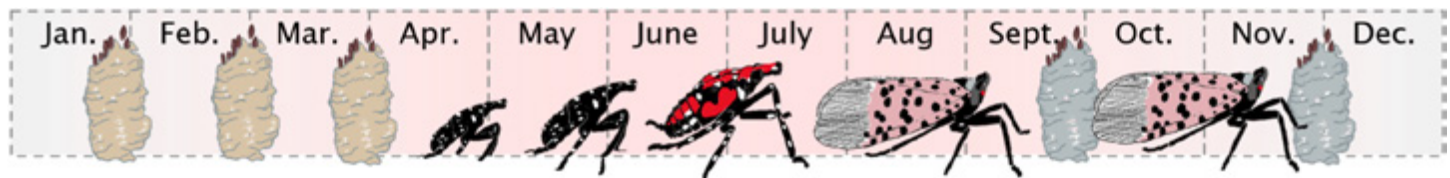
[MDA.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx](http://MDA.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/spotted-lantern-fly.aspx).

Read more about Spotted Lanternflies at:

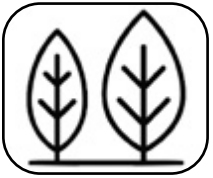
[Extension.umd.edu/resource/spotted-lanternfly-home-gardens](http://Extension.umd.edu/resource/spotted-lanternfly-home-gardens)



### Annual Timeline



# Greenscape Committee



## Resist! Leave the Leaves!

by Katherine Wood and Carolyn Morrissey Greenscapes Committee

Do you get the urge to clean up your yard on the first sunny warmish day in early spring? Resist!

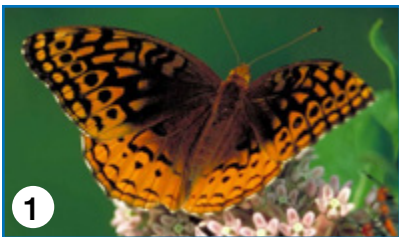
The more we learn about biodiversity, life cycles, and native species the more we understand the negative consequences of many standard landscaping practices and preferences. All those dried hollow plant stems, leaves, twigs, and other plant debris we are keen to clear away provide shelter for many of our native insects. With climate change comes more dramatic shifts in temperature: the covering of leaves and plant debris are literally a warm blanket for many of our native pollinators and pest controllers until the fruit trees bloom.

Delaying clean up provides cost effective mulch and is healthy for your yard. Leaf mulch maintains moisture, inhibits weeds, reduces soil erosion, and delivers soil nutrients naturally. If you can delay an aggressive yard clean up until we have a week of daytime temperatures in the 50s that is ideal. In Kensington this is often the first week in May.

Understandably, this naturalistic approach can make a garden look a little less tidy. But there are ways to show that your garden is tended with care:

- Keep lawn edges trimmed
- Keep any pathways clear and accessible
- Use edging or low fencing around beds or green spaces
- Trim dried stems to 8 inches and leave debris around plant or loose on compost pile
- Bundle trimmed debris and leave propped against a tree or fence as habitat
- Keep a 'habitat area' for a leaf pile and debris
- Use signage such as "Leave the leaves" from the Xerces Society, or make your own
- Earn a BayWise Certified Sign by visiting [Bit.ly/3DiMMuO](https://bit.ly/3DiMMuO)

Here in Kensington some of the native species you will find overwintering in your garden are the 1) Great Spangled Fritillary caterpillars, 2) Luna Moth cocoons, 3) eggs of the Red Banded Hairstreak, chrysalises of 4) Swallowtail butterflies, and 5) Woolly Bear. We also have numerous native ground and cavity dwelling bees. Keep an eye out for the butterflies pictured below in the late spring and summer.



You can help save our native pollinators with an easy and cheap sustainability action! Resist and delay!

[TOK.md.gov/town-committees](https://TOK.md.gov/town-committees)

# Food Waste Program

## The Town of Kensington is starting a Food Waste Collection Program

### WHY ARE WE ADOPTING THIS PROGRAM?

- Less expensive than a traditional composting program
- Reduces landfill waste
- Creates renewable, non-fossil energy—interchangeable with conventional natural gas
- Creates digestate—a nutrient-rich soil-equivalent for agricultural and other land uses
- Helps our community become more sustainable while benefiting the environment

### HOW WILL THE PROGRAM BE IMPLEMENTED?

- Residents, who already receive Town Trash and Recycling services, will be included in this new program at no additional cost.
- Town Crew will deliver a 13-gallon bin to each household.
- Pick up by our current trash/recycling contractor, *Ecology*, will be Thursdays. More information about the start date to follow.
- *Ecology* will deliver food waste to BioEnergy/Devco facility for processing.
- The Community Compost Shed will still be available at Kensington Town Hall.
- Residents can continue their self-funded Compost Crew service if they wish.

### WHAT WE ACCEPT? (Anything that we eat or once ate)

- Produce, including any vegetable or fruit, pumpkins and gourds
- Meats, including chicken, beef, pork, and seafood. Meat with bones are okay. Please exclude oyster and clam shells.
- Dairy, including milk, cheese, yogurts
- Baked goods, including breads, tortillas, cookies, cakes, snack foods
- Grease, including discarded bacon grease and used frying oil
- Coffee grounds and tea bags
- Cooked foods including soups, sauces, and other comingled foods
- Spoiled foods



To find out more about the program and what is accepted and not accepted visit [TOK.md.gov/trash-brush-recycling-composting](http://TOK.md.gov/trash-brush-recycling-composting).

Contact Town staff with questions at [Town@tok.md.gov](mailto:Town@tok.md.gov) or 301-949-2424.



# Kensington Around Town April 2025



3710 Mitchell Street    Office: 301.949.2424  
Kensington, MD 20895    [TOK.md.gov](http://TOK.md.gov)

To:



**UNIQUE SHOPPING**



**DIVERSE DINING**



**ART WALK & ARTISTS**



**FARMERS' MARKET**



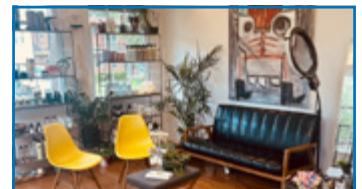
**CREATIVE CLASSES**



**LOCAL THEATER**



**HISTORIC TOUR**



**SALONS & SPAS**



**PARKS**



**SERVICES**



**FITNESS**



**EVENTS**

**Explore it all @ [ExploreKensington.com](http://ExploreKensington.com)**