

Kensington Around Town



**November
December
2025**



Please join us for the 5th annual Light Up KTown



**Friday, December 5, 2025 • 6:30 - 7:30PM
Howard Avenue Park | 3716 Howard Avenue**

To kick off the holiday season, please join us for hot adult beverages, hot cider and hot chocolate, s'mores by the fire pits, music, and merry making!

The lighting ceremony will begin at 6:45 pm. There will be a brief announcement for Town residents about the home decorating award contest categories and rules. Get in the spirit and enter by 12/16 to win the Griswold, It's a Wonderful Life or Traffic Stopper decorating awards! We will also be voting on the best storefront decoration of our cherished Kensington business community.

Thank you to our Light Up KTown sponsors Kyle Richards of Compass Real Estate, and SW7.

For more information about the contest categories and rules, please email Kyle Richards at Kyle.Richards@Compass.com.

Thank you to Kyle Richards and the KTown Ladies for sponsoring the House Decorating Contest.



KENSINGTON

ANTIQUE ROW HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 • 7-9PM

Join us for refreshments & merriment along Howard Avenue!

KensingtonAntiqueRow.com

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Town Dance
Wednesday, Nov 26 • 7-11pm

Small Business Saturday
Sat, Nov 29

**3rd Annual Kensington
Holiday Market**
Sat/Sun Nov 29 & 30 • 11-5pm

DECEMBER

5th Annual Light Up KTown | Fri, Dec 5 | 6:30-7:30pm

Antique Row Holiday Open House | Fri, Dec 5 | 7-9pm

British Players Jack and the Beanstalk | Dec 5-Jan 10

KVFD Breakfast with Santa | Sat, Dec 6 | 8-11am

Christmas Tree Lighting | Sun, Dec 7 | 5:30-6:30pm

Menorah Lighting | Sun, Dec 14 | 6-7pm

Caroling Around the Fountain | Mon, Dec 22 | 7-8pm

For all Town events visit: TOK.md.gov/events

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!



Maryland
HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE



PURCHASE TICKETS AT MHGP.ORG

HISTORIC TOWN OF KENSINGTON

Explore the Historic District of this Victorian Garden Community.

**SUN
DAY**

JUNE 7, 2026

**10 AM
to 5 PM**



Visit MHGP.ORG/KENSINGTON for full tour descriptions & ticket information, including 'Early Bird Discounts.'



Discover your Roots



Discover Your Roots This Holiday Season

By Lisa W. Carney, Town Archivist

During the holidays, many of us find ourselves swapping stories around the table — reminiscing about relatives or how the neighborhood has changed. This season, why not turn that curiosity into discovery? Whether you're exploring your family tree, learning about your property, or diving into local history, these free online resources are a great place to start.

Chronicling America

This free, searchable database of historic newspapers lets you browse publications from across the U.S. through 1963. Created by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, it's a treasure trove for history buffs of all ages. You can search by keyword or flip through entire papers. chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

Tip: For early Kensington history, be sure to check both Maryland and Washington, D.C. papers.

Family Search

If you'd like to trace your family history without paying for a subscription site, FamilySearch is a wonderful option. Provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it offers free access to digitized records — including Federal Census data from 1790 to 1950. Create a free account, click "Search," and choose "Records" to start exploring. FamilySearch.org

Tip: Federal census records are taken every 10 years (1910, 1920, etc.), with one extra census conducted in 1935.

Montgomery County (MC) Atlas

Want to learn more about your own property or how the county has changed over time? MCATLAS is an interactive map and geographic information system (GIS) from Montgomery County. Type in an address to view details like property size, zoning, and even the date it was built. mcatlas.org

Tip: Click the "1865 Martenet and Bond Map" layer and zoom out — it's fascinating to see just how rural our area once was!

This holiday season, explore vintage newspapers, census records, and local maps online — you might just uncover a few surprises to share around the table!

Donation Opportunity



The Town is once again a *Toys-For-Tots* drop-off location this holiday season. Inside Town Hall, you'll find a donation box for new, unwrapped toys.

Donation from Monday, November 3 through Friday, December 12

*Donation hours: Weekdays 8 am - 4 pm**

Inside Kensington Town Hall | 3710 Mitchell Street

Toy donations will also be accepted during the
Christmas Tree Lighting | Sunday, December 7 • 5:30-6:30 pm

*Town Hall will close at noon on Wed, November 26, and will be closed all day on November 27 & 28.

Kensington Historical Society



Year-in-review: As we are planning Kensington Historical Society (KHS) initiatives for 2026 we paused for a moment to consider some highlights of what was accomplished in 2025:

- **Summer Concerts** – 2025 was an expanded concert season with more concerts to accommodate the performers who enjoy playing in Kensington. The concerts are a cornerstone of Saturday mornings in Kensington.
- **Speaker Programs** – We continued to offer programs of historical or community interest. We particularly enjoyed helping celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Kensington Volunteer Fire Department with a speaker on the history of KVFD and by featuring KVFD in the 2025 calendar.
- **Kensington Town Archives** – KHS works closely with the Archives in many ways and our efforts in 2025 furthered our collaboration. We support the enhancement of the collections, conduct research in response to inquiries and provide materials to support programs and displays. KHS also sponsors the Conservation Fund to accept donations to support the Archives.
- **Juneteenth** – KHS was again a supporter of Juneteenth and offered a display tent with information on Kensington history. KHS also helped fund the showing of the film Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round at the Sebrof Forbes Cultural Arts Center.
- **History Organizations** – KHS is represented in a number of different forums of historical organizations and societies throughout the County. These collaborations are designed to develop ways history organizations can support each other in collection and sharing of history as well as coordinate on such issues as preservation projects and archival work.
- **Member Holiday Party** – We will round out the year with the KHS member holiday party in December. Details will be available soon and members will receive their invitations.

Preview of 2026: 2026 is a milestone year and KHS is planning to incorporate the United States 250th Anniversary theme into much of our programming and events.

- **Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage (MHGP)** – Kensington will represent Montgomery County as part of this state-wide tour which will be themed to celebrate the 250th throughout the State. Commemoration of the 250th is led by The Maryland 250th Commission which is the hub for all types of recognition of community histories. MHGP and the Kensington Tour will be one of the events featured by the Commission. We will be able to showcase Kensington's history for all in the State to see.
 - KHS is a key supporter of the Tour, along with Noyes Children's Library Foundation, the beneficiary of the funds raised from the tour, and will be drawing on material we have at KHS and in the Kensington Town Archives to develop informational displays to enhance the tour stops. Long-time KHS members can play a key role as docents throughout Town.
 - Visit MHGP.ORG/KENSINGTON or scan the QR code you will see in the article about the MGPH Tour for full tour descriptions & ticket information, including 'Early Bird Discounts.
- **Speaker Series** – Montgomery County is also celebrating its 250th Anniversary in 2026 so we plan to feature unique aspects of Montgomery County history and preservation as a theme of our speaker programs. The first speaker will be in January and the schedule for the year will be published soon. We are also collaborating with Montgomery History, which is the County designated hub for 250th events, to develop ways to highlight County history.

Kensington Historical Society

- **Calendar** – The 2026 calendar will be out soon and will highlight some of the special planned events in the coming year.
- **New Projects** – Several projects are being developed which will enhance the recognition and presentation of Kensington history for both residents and visitors. These projects will lead to enhanced and permanent displays and are planned to be completed in time for the MHGP Tour in June, 2026.

Member supporters: KHS activities are made possible by our members and sponsors. It's time to renew your KHS membership for 2026. Renew now on the KHS website – KensingtonHistory.org - or by sending a check to the KHS PO Box.

If you are not yet a member, please consider doing so as a way to help support our initiatives for all Town residents.

We look forward to a very eventful year in 2026 and can only continue our work with your continued support. As always, if you have an idea for a program or project please contact any KHS Board Member.

Town Hall Renovations

The Town Hall offices located on the 3rd floor will be going under renovation at the beginning of 2025 and will be closed from Monday, January 5 through the end of March.

If you need to make an appointment, please email us at Town@tok.md.gov, call us at 301-949-2424, or visit our website at TOK.md.gov.



Town Snow Removal



What to Do With All That Snow

The Town requires all of our residents and businesses to clear a path on the sidewalk in front of their property 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 that the sidewalk needs to be cleared. If a path has not been cleared within 24 hours of the notice, a municipal infraction will be issued—\$65 for residential and \$195 for businesses. Please do not pile snow blocking pedestrian walkways at intersections.

Exceptions: residential sidewalks located on Connecticut, Knowles and Summit Avenues, and the 3400 & 3500 block of University Boulevard will be cleared by the Town.

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

MD House & Garden Pilgrimage



Maryland
HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE

September 30 was a big date for the Kensington Tour Team as the complete Tour write-up was submitted for both the MHGP website and the printed tour book (which all ticket holders will receive). To achieve this, Tour details had to be nailed down, descriptions and photographs done for each Tour stop as well as brief histories written of Montgomery County, Kensington and Ken-Gar. We think that the presentation of the Kensington Tour will be appealing to people from all around the State and the DMV and will prompt ticket purchases. The MHGP website now has a short blurb about our Tour as a placeholder until our complete description is loaded which should be by the time you receive this Journal so go to www.mhgp.org and see how our Town shines!

We will be describing different elements of the Tour as time goes on but we want to give a BIG shout-out to Marathon Deli who agreed, even before they opened in Kensington, to provide the ticketed lunch on the Tour Day. Lunch tickets are purchased in advance. Lunch will be picked up and eaten in the Drill Hall or at one of our outdoor venues. Of course, all ticket holders will get information on the dining options in Town for lunch, snack or dinner. BabyCat will round out our day with a special brew, music and a general good time.

As mentioned in prior articles, Tour Book ad sales are included in the total revenue calculation which will be distributed to special projects on the Tour – in our case Noyes. Everyone can be part of the ad sales team. When you visit your favorite spot in Town ask if they are advertising for the Tour. Once you've gotten them interested provide their name and contact information to Carrie Storer at cdestorer20@gmail.com and she will follow up with details. Ads due by November 30.

Now through the end of January is when tickets will be at their best price. So, secure yours now and start the momentum. We hope that every household in Kensington will purchase at least one ticket (and why not more?). Be creative – tickets will make great holiday and birthday gifts etc. Think about the people who you would like to have visit our Town and provide them with a Tour ticket. Are you a business or professional who wants to provide a year-end thank-you to your clients? You can purchase tickets in bulk and gift them. Let's show MHGP how a Town supports a good cause.

Ticketing can be easily done through the MHGP website – www.mhgp.org. There are two types of “early-bird” tickets. This Tour Bell Pass will admit the holder to any one Tour – the sale will be credited to Kensington but the pass holder can visit either the Kensington Tour or any one of the other 2026 Tours. We will have paper versions of the Tour Bell Pass for sale at various Kensington events to be purchased in person. You may also buy a regular Kensington Tour ticket(s) on-line.

Marketing materials are being finalized so that it will be easy to spread the word. We will have information available at all Town events and in all our businesses. Montgomery Municipal Cable has taped a piece to promote interest in the Tour. They will finish that off with filming on the day of the Tour so we will have a fun, permanent record of the event.

MHGP will be marketing all the Tours Statewide. Because the Tours coincide with the 250th Anniversary particular emphasis will be taken to have the Tours included in all events celebrating this Anniversary such as being part of the scheduled events by the Maryland 250th Commission.

We have plenty to do between now and the first of the year with advertising sales, tour promotion and related activities. One of the things the steering committee will be doing is outlining what initiatives need to take place starting in January to be prepared for the Tour. We will share those opportunities as they develop. Share your thoughts and ideas at any time.

Co-Chairs:

Carrie Storer at cdstorer20@gmail.com

Kyle Richards at kylerrichardsrealty@gmail.com

Kate DeWitt at dewittkl@erols.com



Scan the QR code to the left for a direct link to the Kensington Tour. Or visit MHGP.ORG

Town Council Summary



Wednesday, October 8, 2025, Town Council Meeting Summary

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025.
- Held a presentation by the Maryland Department of Disabilities and the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council with regard to the importance of inclusive playgrounds.
- Adopted **Ordinance No. O-05-2025** – An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington, Maryland, for a public purpose.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-19-2025** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Donohoe Construction for the Town Hall Offices Renovation project.
- Approved **Resolution No. R-20-2025** – A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Authorizing a Contract with Shorb Landscaping for Landscape Maintenance Services at Clum Kennedy Park.

Town Adopted Ordinances

The Town of Kensington recently adopted the following two Ordinances:

Ordinance No. O-04-2025 - Adopted at the September 10, 2025, Town Council Meeting and effective September 30, 2025.

An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington Amending Chapter 7, "Public Health, Safety and Conduct." Article 2, "Noise," Section 7-201, "Noise Control" to Exempt the Town from Application of Sec. 31B-9 of the Montgomery County Code.

<https://tok.md.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/O-04-2025-LEAF-BLOWER.pdf>

Ordinance No. O-05-2025 - Adopted at the October 8, 2025, Town Council Meeting and effective October 28, 2025.

An Ordinance of the Town of Kensington Authorizing the Acquisition of certain property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue, Kensington, Maryland, for public purpose.

<https://tok.md.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/O-05-2025-10415-MONTGOMERY-AVENUE.pdf>

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.

3712 Farragut Avenue - Driveway

3947 Washington Street - Addition
3510 Decatur Avenue - Storage Pod
3709 Farragut Avenue - Fence
3600 Decatur Avenue - Washington Gas
10619 Connecticut Avenue - Wall Sign
3700 Farragut Avenue - Washington Gas
10003 Kensington Parkway - Fence

Kensington Around Town Nov/Dec 2025



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

To:

GIFTS FOR ALL

Antiques • Books
Collectibles • Vintage
New Gifts • Art
Pet Treats • Toys
Cards • Clothing
Accessories • Candles
Home Décor • Jewelry
Sweets • Tools
& so much more!



**SHOP
SMALL
EXPLORE
BIG!**

GIFT CARDS

Dining • Shopping
Grocery • Sweets
Yoga • Fitness
Martial Arts • Car Wash
Art Classes • Theater
Music Lessons
Pedicures • Hair Styling
Spa Treatments

Explore it all @ ExploreKensington.com