



# Kensington Around Town

## March 2026



## KENSINGTON HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026**

When we first started presenting **Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage (MHGP)** Tour information it was so last year! We have shifted gears now that the Tour is this year and we are immersed in detailed implementation planning. Some highlights are as follows:

**Tour Stops:** Detailed plans are being developed for each stop on the Tour whether it be a private home or garden or one of our landmark buildings where we will have exhibits. We will present highlights of some of these Tour stops in future issues so residents will be informed about exhibits that might be of particular interest.

**Marketing:** We have developed a detailed marketing plan from now until June which includes print and social media. We are working with our marketing partners to reach a broad audience in the region. Montgomery Municipal Cable filmed a promotional video. This can be viewed on the MMC YouTube channel. MMC will be running this from now to June. Our merchants have marketing pieces available for customers. Marketing materials are available for any group gathering. Check the [www.mhgp.org](http://www.mhgp.org) website for a complete description of the Kensington Tour.

**Tickets:** The early-bird ticket price expired on January 31 but ticket prices are lower now than they will be on the day of the Tour. Visit [MHGP.org/Kensington](http://MHGP.org/Kensington) to order your ticket(s). Can we achieve a ticket(s) sale for every Kensington household? Think so. Please do your part to support Noyes Children's Library Foundation and our beloved Noyes Children's Library. Kensington residents will have access to properties and exhibits not previously open to visitors.

**Volunteers:** As part of our detailed planning for each stop on the Tour, we are identifying volunteer opportunities for the day of the Tour. We will have an easy-to-navigate sign-up system so you will be able pick your favorite spot and time to do your part to help make the Tour a success.

**250th Anniversary:** We looked to participate in the Tour in 2026 so it would be our contribution to the state-wide celebration of the US and MOCO 250th. Our Tour will be included in state-wide marketing of 250th events in addition to the marketing that MHGP will be doing throughout the State.

Excitement is building among those of us who are working on the Tour and we look forward to sharing that enthusiasm with the entire Town. Everyone is a host for this Tour so think about what your part can be.

# Save The Date



KTOWN COMMUNITY EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 9am - 1pm

## TRASH TO TREASURE

# Buy Your Tickets Now!



EXPLORE KENSINGTON'S VICTORIAN GARDEN COMMUNITY with exclusive tours of historic homes and landmarks, preservation projects, private and public gardens & parks and more.



*Maryland*  
HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE



PURCHASE TICKETS AT [MHGP.ORG](http://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



For full tour description & tickets visit:  
[MHGP.ORG/KENSINGTON](http://MHGP.ORG/KENSINGTON)



Benefitting The Noyes Children's Library Foundation

# Town Archives



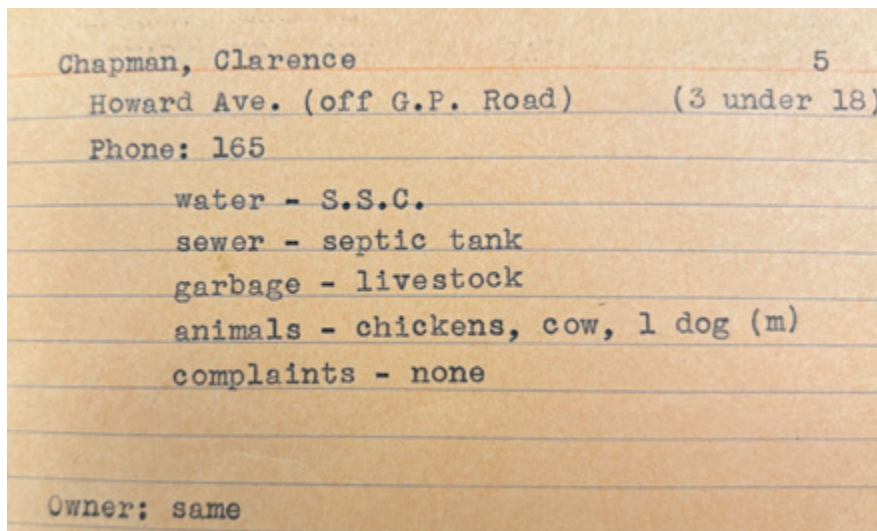
## From Privies to Food Waste: Kensington's Long Tradition of Public Surveys

Kensington has a long history of surveying its residents to improve public health and quality of life. In 2026, the Sustainable Kensington committee will survey residents about food waste collection—nearly 90 years after a similar effort led by Dr. Katherine Chapman produced a comprehensive sanitary survey of the area. Preserved in the

Kensington Town Archives, the 1936 Sanitary Survey of Kensington offers a glimpse into life during the town's early years.

Between August and September 1936, Dr. Chapman, the town's health officer, worked with the mayor and town council to document sanitary conditions in 458 buildings, including homes, businesses, schools, and churches. The survey recorded household information, water and sewage sources, garbage disposal methods, animals kept on properties, and resident complaints. The data were compiled on index cards, and a summary report was sent to the County Health Officer.

The findings revealed a growing community of 1,710 residents, with nearly one-third under age 18. In contrast to today's suburban landscape, the survey documented livestock and pets within town limits. Animals such as cows and hogs reflected Kensington's agricultural roots.



*Pictured above: Index cards captured sanitation and household details for every building.*

Most homes were connected to Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission water and sewer lines, but many still relied on septic tanks, cesspools, or privies—36 of which were deemed unsanitary. Garbage disposal varied widely, including collection, burial, and burning. More than 100 households submitted complaints, most often requesting a town-wide garbage collection service.

In response to Dr. Chapman's report, County Health Officer V. L. Ellicott praised the survey as "a splendid piece of public health work." He also suggested that workers from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a New Deal-era program, could be requested to assist in replacing unsanitary privies.

The Kensington Town Archives preserves this history through materials donated by Virginia Humphreys, including the report, correspondence, and index cards. These materials are a unique resource depicting details of daily life in the 1930s. As the town once again turns to resident surveys to guide community improvements, the 1936 effort highlights how local voices have long shaped Kensington's progress.

# Kensington Historical Society



## Preview of 2026 Events

The year 2026 will be a year full of events in Town featuring the history of Kensington and Montgomery County. Both Montgomery County and the United States are celebrating their 250th anniversary this year. The following is a preview of events that KHS is sponsoring and supporting:

**Speaker Series:** We have a great speaker series already lined up. Save the dates for the following programs: (all events are at 7 pm at Town Hall)

- March 18:** Hidden History of MOCO  
Book talk with author Brian Myers
- April 16:** Preservation Efforts, Successes and Current Issues  
Eileen McGukian; President of Montgomery Preservation
- May:** History of NIH and it's Arrival in Bethesda  
Devon Valera; Collections Manager of Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum
- Sept 23:** A 250-year Tapestry of Time, People and Place  
Ralph Buglass – historian
- Nov 5:** Updates from the Historic Preservation Commission  
Rebecca Ballow; Division chief

## Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage Tour:

Kensington is the Montgomery County destination for the 2026 Tour on Sunday, June 7. The state-wide Tour will be part of the larger set of events celebrating the US 250th Anniversary. KHS is glad to be part of the Town-wide effort to bring this Tour to Town. It promises to be an amazing day and volunteering on the day of the event will be a great way to be part of it. Look for sign-up soon.

## Howard Avenue Concerts:

It won't be long before the concerts start. We look forward to bringing a wide-variety of music to Kensington. Saturday morning volunteers are welcome. It's fun to be a part of the Saturday morning happening on Howard Avenue.

**KHS Membership:** All of these events are made possible by KHS supporters and we thank them all. You can do your part by becoming a member of KHS or by renewing your membership at [KensingtonHistory.org](http://KensingtonHistory.org). Thank you.

# Town Snow & Ice Removal



## Kudos to Our Public Works Crew.....Mayor Tracey Furman

On behalf of the mayor and council, the Town would like to formally acknowledge the outstanding dedication and hard work demonstrated by our Public Works crew: Jason Swain, Joe Natali, Pablo Oliva, and Marco Palma. Their exceptional efforts in clearing our Town streets and sidewalks after the January 25th storm were critical in quickly maintaining accessibility and safety for our community.

As a resident since 1980, I cannot recall another time when our Town was faced with such a significant accumulation of ice and more than a week of sustained freezing temperatures. These challenging conditions required extraordinary measures and perseverance from everyone involved in the response.

The Town also wants to recognize our road contractor NZI who committed before the storm to sending us any equipment we might need to help clear our streets. While our Town trucks and plows are big, by Monday afternoon they weren't up to pushing the packed ice or transporting it to another location. The addition of the heavy equipment proved essential allowing us to widen and clear ice from sidewalks and streets throughout our Town.

Together, the Town crew and NZI transported 85 dump truck loads of ice to the recently purchased M&T Drive thru lot on Montgomery Ave. It was a true miracle that the Town had settled on the property just few days prior to the storm.



# Girl Scouts Create Free Libraries



Members of Girl Scout Troop 34175 dedicated two unique little free libraries in Kensington this fall, completing their Bronze Award – the highest award possible for Girl Scout Juniors.

While many people may be familiar with the little free library concept, these Girl Scouts put a twist on the idea: in addition to a variety of books, their libraries offer free packages of seeds for visitors to take home and plant.

The troop came up with the idea almost a year ago. The oldest girls in the troop, all fifth graders at the time, brainstormed several ideas for their Bronze Award Take Action Project. Each girl was required to contribute at least 20 hours of service to completing a project that would in some way benefit the community long-term. Many of the girls are avid readers and loved the idea of creating little free libraries; others wanted to do something that would help the environment. Staying true to their Girl Scout ideals, they worked together to come up with a solution that met everyone's needs, and the idea for the little free seed and book libraries was born.

The girls decided to build two libraries to have a wider impact and to allow all of the girls the opportunity to complete their service hours. They installed one at the Kenmont Swim and Tennis Club (2900 Faulkner Place), which has allowed the troop to hold its monthly meetings in their clubhouse for the past few years. The troop had a ribbon cutting ceremony there on Sept. 28 during its community yard sale and electric vehicle expo.

With support from Kensington's Mayor, Town Council and staff, the second library was installed in front of Kensington Town Hall (3710 Mitchell Street), with a ribbon cutting on Oct. 8.

In addition to collaborating with one another to come up with the idea, the girls had to fundraise to pay for the project, research seed saving and benefits, solicit donations of seeds and books, and of course put in the hours of labor to construct the two little free library structures from scratch. With several troop parents' supervision, the girls built both structures over the course of the spring and summer.

The Bronze Award recipients from Troop 34175 are Cora D., Coral A., Erykah C., Kathleen S., Lauren M., and Willa H.



*Pictured above: Council Members Stuart Sparker, Conor Crimmins, Nate Engle join Mayor Tracey Furman and Girl Scout Troop 34175 at the ribbon cutting for the new seed library.*



*Pictured above and left: Girl scouts organizing and constructing the seed library.*

# Town Council Summary



## Tuesday, November 18, 2026, Town Council Meeting Summary

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2025.
- Approved the Work Session Meeting Minutes of October 31, 2025.
- Acknowledged receipt of the [Audit Committee's Report](#) for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (FY25).
- Approved [Resolution No. R-17-2025](#) – A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Playground Specialists, Inc., to install the PlaySpec Rainbow, pour-in-place (PIP), surfacing at St. Paul Park.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-21-2025](#) – A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Authorizing the Town Manager to accept the proposal from Shannon-Baum Signs for the refabrication of the existing Antique Row sign at the intersection of Connecticut and Howard Avenues.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-22-2025](#) – A Resolution of the Town Council of Kensington Confirming the Appointments of John Blick and Paul Sexton to the Development Review Board (DRB), which were made by the Mayor.
- Approved [Resolution No. R-23-2025](#) – A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington Proclaiming November to be Municipal Government Works Month in Kensington, Maryland.

## Wednesday, December 10, 2025, Town Council Meeting Summary

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2025.

## Wednesday, January 14, 2026, Town Council Meeting Summary

- Approved the Town Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2025.
- Approved the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2026.
- Acknowledged a Closed Session was held on January 5, 2026, pursuant to State Government Article §3-305(b)(7), "Closed Session", to consult with the Town Attorney to obtain legal advice.

# 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.

10707 Connecticut Avenue - Sign Panel  
10707 Connecticut Avenue - Wall Sign  
10707 Connecticut Avenue - Wall Sign  
10707 Connecticut Avenue - Directional Sign  
10707 Connecticut Avenue - Directional Sign  
10707 Connecticut Avenue - Wall Sign

10707 Connecticut Avenue - Directional Sign  
3700 Farragut Avenue - Fence  
3512 Perry Avenue - Storage Pod  
3509 Dupont Avenue - Alteration  
10634 Connecticut Avenue - Alteration  
3740 University Blvd - Wall Sign  
3601 Dupont Avenue - Alteration  
10619 Connecticut Avenue - Alteration  
3740 University Blvd - Monument Sign  
3910 Knowles Avenue - Limited Duration Sign  
3910 Knowles Avenue - Limited Duration Sign  
10503 Wheatley Street - Alteration  
10223 Summit Avenue - Washington Gas

# New Safeway Art

In 2019 the four Safeway windows that face Armory Avenue were beautified with art from local artists. The installation has lasted seven years and it's now time to replace the artwork. We reached out to the local art community to find new art that featured Kensington's historic buildings and beauty. The new window art displays will be installed before the Kensington Home and Garden Tour on June 7th. Below is a preview of the new art chosen and the names of the artists.

*Passage of Time in honor of Alden Schofield*



*A Work of Art by Debra Halprin*



*District Café by Madeleine Greenwald*

*Kensington Town Hall by Rajendra KC*

Alden Schofield • (1944 - 2024)

Debra Halprin • [HalprinArt.com](http://HalprinArt.com)

Madeleine Greenwald • [MaddyGreenwaldArt.com](http://MaddyGreenwaldArt.com)

Rajendra KC • [KCFineArt.net](http://KCFineArt.net)

# KHS 2026 Calendar



## KHS Offers Keepsake, Full-Color 2026 Calendar for Sale ... But Hurry, They're Going Fast!

Kensington History Society (KHS) has produced a full-color 2026 calendar, which celebrates the Town's selection as Montgomery County's featured destination for the 2026 Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage (MHGP).

For more than 90 years, this prestigious statewide tour has celebrated Maryland's most significant historic homes, gardens, and preservation projects. The honor of being chosen—only one site per county is featured each year—places Kensington

in distinguished company.

On Sunday, June 7, Kensington will welcome visitors from across the state to explore our Town.

To commemorate this honor and help promote the event, KHS's 2026 calendar celebrates the Town's architectural beauty and historical legacy. Each month features a striking color photograph of one of Kensington's landmark homes, gardens, or civic buildings, accompanied by informative captions that tell the stories behind them.

The calendar serves both as a keepsake and as a preview of what visitors can expect when the Tour comes to town.

If you are a paid-up KHS member for 2026, you should have received a calendar already. If you would like to become a KHS member, then please visit our website to join and then we'll deliver or mail a calendar to you.

Calendars are for sale at \$10.00 at the Kensington Row Bookshop on Howard Avenue or by contacting KHS at [info@kensingtonhistory.org](mailto:info@kensingtonhistory.org), calling 240-621-2881 or writing to KHS, PO Box 453, Kensington, MD 20895.

But don't wait—we only have a limited supply remaining!

All proceeds from the calendar benefit KHS programs.

# Town Hall Renovations to Begin

Town Manager, Matt Hoffman has officially signed a contract with Donahoe Construction for the renovation of the Town Offices. The renovation work is scheduled to begin on March 2nd. However, there is a possibility of a brief delay if materials are not available on time.

During the renovation period, staff will temporarily relocate to the Conference Room and Council Chamber on the lower level of the building. Although the building itself will remain open to the public, staff requests that residents call or email prior to visiting Town Hall to ensure their needs can be accommodated efficiently.

Town Council meetings will continue to be held via Zoom until staff has returned to their offices on the third floor. The renovation project is expected to be completed by June 1st.



# WSSC Updates



## WSSC Surveying and Upcoming Water Main Replacement Project

If you've notice surveyors working around town marking the streets and sidewalks, they are WSSC contractors mapping our water mains. This surveying phase is essential, as once it is completed, the information will be given to WSSC, so they can plan for the upcoming water pipe replacement project within the Town. WSSC has not yet announced a date for when the project will begin but all indications are that it will not start before 2027. Improvements to our aging water infrastructure are well overdue as we've had multiple main breaks in recent years in our business district and on the northside of Town.

# Noyes Children's Library



## Noyes Children's Library Renovation Update

The Montgomery County Department of General Services has notified both the Town and the Noyes Library Foundation that the contractor chosen for renovating the Noyes Children's Library has officially signed the contract and submitted all required documents. This marks a significant milestone in moving the renovation project forward.

Once the contract has been fully executed, a comprehensive master schedule outlining the renovation timeline will be made publicly available on the county's Project page. This will allow residents and stakeholders to stay informed about key dates and project milestones.

Before the renovation period, the Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) team will oversee the removal of all books and furnishings from the library. The contractor has also been instructed to post clear signage around the site to update the community.

The summer is expected to be particularly busy for residents living near and around the circle, with renovation activities contributing to an active season. However, the anticipation of seeing two of our community's most cherished historic structures receive needed improvements and repurposed is truly exciting for everyone involved.

# March Events



**The British Players Present:**  
*The Real Inspector Hound & The Fifteen Minute Hamlet*

February 27 - March 14 • Various Times

**GIGS Courtyard Presents:**  
*The Spring Thing*

Saturday, March 21 • 6pm

Visit [TOK.md.gov/Events](https://TOK.md.gov/Events) for more info





# M&T Parking Lot

## Acquisition of 10415 Montgomery Avenue for Public Parking Expansion

### Background

On January 23, 2025, the Town completed the acquisition of the property located at 10415 Montgomery Avenue. This purchase was executed with M&T Bank as the seller, and the total acquisition cost amounted to \$930,000.

### Purpose of Acquisition

The primary objective of acquiring this property is to expand public parking options within the Town's Business District. This strategic purchase is intended to support local businesses and improve accessibility for residents and visitors by increasing the availability of parking spaces, making it less desirable to park on residential street.

### State Reimbursement and Funding

To offset the cost of acquisition, the Town will be reimbursed \$800,000 by the State. This reimbursement will be provided through two separate bond bills, specifically 23-458 and 23-706. These funds were redirected to support this acquisition following a Prior Authorization request made during the 2025 Legislative session.

The Town plans to remove the building later this year, install a small pocket park, and re-strip the lot to maximize the number of parking spaces.

Our Sustainable Kensington Committee is working on a state grant to allow us to install EV charging stations at this location. More information to follow.



# Book Festival Takes a Pause



## 2026 Kensington Day of the Book Festival Takes a Pause

At the January 2026 council meeting, it was officially announced that the Kensington Day of the Book Festival will be taking a pause this year. Elisenda Sola-Sole, the founder and longtime organizer of the Festival, informed the mayor and council that she is no longer able to continue organizing the event, but expressed hope that the

Town would consider assuming responsibility for the Festival in the future.

The Kensington Day of the Book Festival has been a cornerstone of the community for eighteen years, bringing together authors, book readings, music, food, and local organizations for a vibrant celebration enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Although the Town of Kensington hosts many events throughout the year, the Labor Day Parade and Festival remains our only signature event directly managed by the Town. All other events, including the Day of the Book Festival, are organized by the business community or Town Committees. For these events the Town does provide small grants, Public Works and staff assistance as needed and event promotion.

The Town Council will deliberate the future of the Kensington Day of the Book Festival during the 2026/27 budget planning.

The Mayor and Council wish to extend their sincere appreciation to Elisenda, who is both a resident and local business owner. Elisenda's commitment and dedication has played a pivotal role in making The Kensington Day of the Book Festival one of the Town's most popular and highly attended events.



# Kensington Around Town March 2026



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

To:

## KENSINGTON



## FARMERS' MARKET



### OPEN YEAR ROUND!

#### SPRING PRODUCE:

Asparagus • Spinach • Flowers • Greens  
Strawberries • Herbs • Peas • Cabbage  
Cherries • Blueberries • Raspberries • Beans

#### 21+ VENDORS:

Prepared Foods • Oils • Baked Goods • Eggs  
Cheese • Pet Treats • Juices • Meats  
Honey • Jams • Coffee • Seafood

**Every Saturday 9am-1pm**  
**Howard Avenue Train Station**

[ExploreKensington.com/farmers-market](http://ExploreKensington.com/farmers-market)