

Town Hall  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland



Board of Town Commissioners

Steve Sonnett, President  
Joe Hourclé, Jim Storey

**THE TOWN HALL IS OPEN WEEKDAYS**

Monday–Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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Town of Upper Marlboro  
14211 School Lane  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Have a  
Safe and  
Happy  
Valentine's Day!



Welcome to *Landings* . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



A Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

February, 2012 vol. 7 no. 2

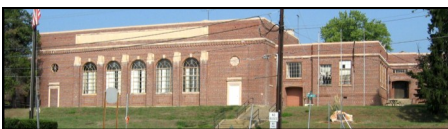
This is it! . . . **DON'T MISS THESE 3 VERY IMPORTANT MEETINGS**

**① Town Hall Meeting — February 14<sup>th</sup>**

*On the Agenda: Resolution opposing the demolition of the historic schools on Elm Street.*

**② Informational Meeting — February 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Get the facts from experts at this critical discussion and Q&A about the historic schools demolition.*



**③ HPC Hearing — February 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Demolition application hearing by the Historic Preservation Commission (at the CAB).*

**On the Agenda for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting**

**O**n the proposed agenda for the Town Meeting is a Resolution opposing the County's application before the Prince George's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for a Historic Area Work Permit in order to demolish two historic sites on Elm Street—the Old Marlboro High School, and the Old Marlboro Primary School. The high school is the large brick building across from the Post Office. The primary school is the small frame building next to the high school.

The loss of these historic sites would be a blow to our Town, but residents need to consider what an even greater blow it will be to have an 80,000 square foot, four-story building with a three-storied, four hundred vehicle parking garage built in it's place by the County.

Also on the agenda is the renewal of the Town's franchise agreement with Comcast. A consortium of municipalities is being formed to negotiate a renewal with Comcast. In the past, the Town chose to “opt-in” to the County's Comcast agreement as provided by the County's cable franchise ordinance. On the other hand, the franchise agreement with Verizon was obtained using a consortium of municipalities as the bargaining agent, which resulted in a better outcome for the Town.

The Board believes that joining the negotiation consortium will result in an agreement that is more advantageous for the Town. A Resolution, authorizing the Town to join other municipalities in bargaining for a Comcast franchise renewal, will be on the Board's agenda on Tuesday night.

**Household Trash WILL BE picked up on Monday the 20th**  
**—BULK and YARDWASTE pick-up will be on Tuesday—**

# INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE HISTORIC SCHOOLS

Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church—Parish Hall • 14519 Church Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

The Prince George's County Historical Society and the Town of Upper Marlboro are sponsoring an informational gathering on the issue regarding the historic schools located at 14524 Elm Street (across from the Post Office at Governor Oden Bowie Dr.)

As you may have read, the County is considering demolishing the school buildings in order to build in its place a new Family Justice Center-- there are logistical problems regarding the site, and because the school property is a designated Historic Site under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, it is important that we have a good public discussion of the issue before the case comes before the Historic Preservation Commission the following week.

We are sending out notice of this meeting to a number of organizations and individuals who should have an interest in the subject. Any ideas you have on the subject will be much appreciated. Please be sure that you and/or your organization is being represented at this meeting!

—Courtesy/M–NCPHC Historic Preservation Section

## POLICE REPORT JANUARY 2012

Town Citations: 128 • State Citations: 50

In-Town Incidents:	Out-of-Town Incidents:
2 Larceny	5 Burglary
1 Property Damage	17 Larceny
1 Robbery (attempt)	2 Assault
2 Vehicle Impound	1 Robbery

All in-Town incidents were in the downtown area and not in the residential areas.

### UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**TOWN MEETING:** Tuesday, February 14th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

**MARYLAND: A HOUSE DIVIDED, AN EXHIBITION:** Surratt House commemorates the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War with a focus on Maryland's role in the conflict. Starts January 12th, Wednesdays through Fridays, 11 am – 3 pm, Saturdays & Sundays, 12 noon – 4 pm. No reservations required. Regular museum admission: \$3/ adults, \$2/seniors, \$1/children 5-18. Surratt House Museum 9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton 20735. Call: 301-868-1121 for more information.

**TOWN OFFICES CLOSED:** Monday, February 20th, in observance of Presidents' Day. Town Hall offices will reopen on Tuesday, February 21st at 9 a.m.

**HOUSEHOLD TRASH WILL BE PICKED-UP ON MONDAY THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ( PRESIDENTS' DAY ):** Household trash ONLY. However, YARD WASTE & BULK TRASH will be picked up on Tuesday the 21st.

**WORK SESSION:** Tuesday, February 28th, 9:15 a.m. at Town Hall. This meeting is open to the public.

**ENSLAVED WOMEN OF DARNALL'S CHANCE:** Fridays in February 1:00 & 3:00 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum. FREE, reservations not required.

## DID YOU KNOW?



TOMB OF DR. BEANES BEFORE RESTORATION.

The site of the Old Marlboro Elementary School (OMES) is known as "Academy Hill" for the original educational institution established in 1835, accepting its first students in early 1837.

Dr. Beanes' tomb is there because the original academy building incorporated Dr. Beanes' house, noted in 1855 (at the time of its destruction by a fire) to be one of the oldest and finest houses in Upper Marlborough back when Dr. Beanes owned it.

The British made their headquarters here on Aug. 22 and 23, 1814 on their way to burn Washington, D.C; this is also where they took Dr. Beanes into custody, leading to Francis Scott Key's involvement in his release, and the writing of the *Star Spangled Banner*.

Subjects taught at the Marlborough Academy included Dictionary, Geography, Latin, Algebra, Geometry, Cyphering, Greek, and French.

Boys were admitted, at \$20 per year originally, with \$10 more for a mathematical education. That \$20 would be over \$380 today or \$570 with mathematics instruction. A few years later, in 1840, girls were also admitted as students.

The old academy building was converted into one of the first public high schools in Prince George's County in 1908, preceded by Laurel in 1899 and Surrattsville in 1906.

In 1921, when the high school portion of the existing building was built, the 1855 frame school building (four-room frame structure) was moved to the elementary school lot on Valley Lane to be used as a high school for African Americans until 1935 when a new high school was built south of the Courthouse.

—Brian Callicott



TOMB OF DR. BEANES AFTER RESTORATION.