

**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.**

Contact Town Hall at:
(office) **301-627-6905**
(fax) **301-627-2080**

(e-mail) **info@uppermarlboromd.gov**

(cable channel) **Verizon 19**

OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.uppermarlboromd.gov

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



2013

Town Hall-iday Party

Sunday, December 8th, 5:00–8:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Come gather around our holiday tree on December 8th at 5:00 p.m. for this annual celebration. This event gets bigger and better every year, so make sure not to miss out on the fun! Bring the whole family to see Santa's arrival by police escort and the lighting of the tree at dusk.



There will be music and caroling and plenty to eat and drink. Santa will have goodies for the kids and he is hoping you'll want your picture taken with him this year.

Welcome to Landings . . .

A monthly newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro



A Monthly Newsletter from the Town of Upper Marlboro

December, 2013 vol. 8 no. 11



WE WANT YOU!
— PLEASE VOTE —

Why Vote?

This is a tough election to get people out to vote. It's in the winter and also on a Monday with no other offices up for election. Services are being provided and taxes are the lowest municipal taxes in the county . . . so why vote?

It's a civil right and civic duty to vote. And, it's ironic that hundreds of billions of your tax dollars are spent world-wide to give people the right to vote, while many right here at home don't exercise that right.

The Town is facing several issues that will require negotiations with other political entities. We're working hard to have a "seat at the table" and a strong showing that the citizens of the Town of Upper Marlboro actively support their Town's government will certainly make a difference!

Election Day in The Town of Upper Marlboro is **Monday, January 6th, 2014**. Voting will take place at Town Hall from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. using paper ballots. You are already registered to vote in this election if you are currently registered in Prince George's County to vote in the general elections and your registered voting address is within the Town limits. **Deadline to register to vote is Friday, December 6th C.O.B.**

This election is to fill all three Commissioners positions for two-year terms. After the election, the new Board selects one of the three to be President of the Board. The President also acts as the "Mayor" and Chief Executive Officer.

There will be some new names listed on the ballot this time. There are also blank spaces provided on the ballot for write-in votes. You may only vote for up to three candidates in total. **Deadline to register as a candidate is Monday, December 9th C.O.B.**



**Report 2013
NOVEMBER**

Town Citations: 153 • State Citations: 122

In-Town Incidents:

- 1 Disorderly Conduct
- 2 Arrest
- 1 Citation
- 6 Vehicle Impound
- 3 Larceny

Out-of-Town Incidents:

- 1 Assault
- 3 Burglary
- 6 Larceny
- 4 Stolen Vehicle

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

On the Agenda

Please note that the December Town Meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, December 16th. The Board of Commissioners had to change the meeting date for several reasons, but most importantly, so that all the Commissioners could be present.

At the November 12th Town Hall meeting, Commissioner Hourclé introduced Ordinance 2013-02. This ordinance would raise the salaries of the Commissioners from \$600 a year to \$ 1,200. The President, in addition to the \$1,200 compensation as a Commissioner, would receive a \$28,800 salary for a total compensation of \$30,000. The underlying premise is the President spends full-time running the day-to-day operations of the Town and should be compensated. The introduced ordinance provides that should the Town hire a Town Administrator to run day-to-day operations so that the President's job would be part-time the

President's salary would be reduced to \$600. Thus, total compensation for the President would be \$1,800. Legal counsel has advised us that the introduced Ordinance would run afoul of State law and our charter, which prohibits an elected official's salary from being raise or lowered during the official's term in office. Commissioner Hourclé has indicated he will amend the introduced ordinance to provide an unconditioned salary for the President of \$15,000.

Another item on the agenda will be our mid-year line item adjustments to the FY2014 budget. The repaving project in Marlborough Towne came in under budget, and the Board will be considering transferring the surplus to other Public Works projects. Minor adjustments to line items in other departments will also be considered.

As usual there will be reports on items of interest and a public comment period.



The Jupiter Lee house.

PHOTO BY SUSAN PEARL

Valley Lane

A Little Walk With A Big History

Valley Lane, running North-South between the Trinity Episcopal Church and the Bunnell-Anderson House on Church Street, leads to the site of the first freedman's community in the town of Upper Marlboro.

In 1865, Mr. Frederick Sasscer deeded five acres of land to Henson Greenleaf, Nicholas Greenleaf, and George Bowling – African-American trustees of the New Washington Conference of the Methodist Church. Here, they established the Union Chapel and an accompanying burying ground. The chapel is long gone, but the burying ground remains today. In 1868, a Freedmen's Bureau school was completed with the mission of aiding freed slaves during Reconstruction following the Civil War. For more than 50 years, Union Chapel was a focal point for the African-American community in Upper Marlboro. In the late 1880s, Jupiter Lee and Erasmus Gantt purchased homes from the nearby Clagett Farm and moved them to the Valley Lane community. These two homes formed the nucleus of the 19th Century African-American community in Upper Marlboro.

If any town resident has more information on the history of Valley Lane, please contact Joe Plenzler of the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) at: plenzlerjm@gmail.com. He's interested in helping tell this important part of our town's history.

Looking for a knockout stocking stuffer?

The 2014 Maryland Home & Garden Pilgrimage
Prince George's Co.—Saturday, April 26th
(our very own town will be featured!)

One day tickets for this tour are available through the Town's Historical Committee at a reduced rate of \$30 each (\$35 on the day of the tour).

Contact: germanoki@gmail.com to purchase tickets now!

Brown Bag It!

Effective January 1, 2014 Residential Curbside Yard Waste Collection will change. **YARD WASTE WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED IN PLASTIC BAGS.** Residents will need to place loose yard waste in large bio-degradable **PAPER** yard waste bags. These bags are available at most local home improvement stores, garden centers and grocery stores. Bags of grass and leaves should **not exceed 35 pounds**. Larger debris like tree branches & sticks should be bundled & tied into 4-foot lengths also should not exceed 35 pounds.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

14TH ANNUAL GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST & SHOW (plus "American Girl" DOLL RAFFLE):

NOW through December 15th (Fridays-Sundays) 12 noon –5:00 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Call (301) 952-8010. No reservations necessary, \$1 per person.

***TOWN MEETING: NEW DATE** Monday, December 16th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall (*moved from Dec. 10th*) This meeting is open to the public.

27TH ANNUAL WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS:

NOW through January 1st, nightly 5–9:30 p.m. at Watkins Regional Park (FREE on December 25th). Call 301-699-2456 or visit: www.pgparcs.com

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED: Wednesday, December 25th, in observance of Christmas Day. Town Hall offices will reopen on Thursday, December 26th at 9:00 a.m.

WORK SESSION: Due to holiday schedules, December's monthly work session has been canceled.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED: Wednesday, January 1st, in observance of New Year's Day. Town Hall offices will reopen on Thursday, January 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY: Friday, January 3rd, 4:00–7:00 p.m. Menu: Fried Whiting, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread, Drink & Dessert. Cost: \$9 Adults, \$8 Seniors & \$5 Children (5 to 12 yrs). For info, call: 301-627-2636, or visit: <http://trinityuppermarlboro.edow.org/>

TOWN ELECTION: Monday, January 6th, at Town Hall. Polls will be open from 1:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE-TRINITY CHURCH: Tuesday, January 14th. 2–8:00 p.m. Trinity Church. Call: 301-627-2636 for more information.