

TOWN HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Event Planning & Archiving Session

Saturday, **March 21** 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall

Residents of the Town and surrounding area are encouraged to bring items of historical interest (such as letters, drawings & photos) to be scanned for the Town's Archives. Visit the TUMHC on their website: www.tumhc.com/ or better yet, drop by at our meeting!

The TUMHC is always looking for new members and eager volunteers to help out with events, research and archiving our Town's rich history. **You do not have to be a researcher or a historian to join in on the fun!**

School On The Hill



In this photo (taken prior to 1921) a class poses for their portrait in front of the mid-19th century school building, with who is likely their teacher standing on the right. The "Principal's House" to the right was built in the late 1800's. —PHOTO COURTESY OF: SHIRLEY DUVAL

President's Annual Report

The Town's Charter requires an annual report by the President on "... the condition of municipal affairs and make such recommendations he deems proper for the public good and welfare of the Town."

Town Hall



Board of Town Commissioners

Steve Sonnett – *President*
Larissa Ferrer, Jim Storey

Office Hours

Monday–Friday: 9 am – 5 pm

Contact Town Hall

(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

Introduction

This report covers a March to March time period. I picked this time of year to allow discussion of the results from last fiscal year, progress reports of the current fiscal year and the drafting of the next fiscal year budget. Most of the information below has been reported in our newsletter or discussed at Town Meetings.

Year in Review

Leaving the budget discussion aside for now, the most significant event was the Town being awarded Sustainable Community (SC) status. Our SC application establishes a smart growth strategic and action plan to guide Town actions over the

next five years. The plan should be reviewed and modified as required. SC status allows the Town to apply for certain grants to carry out the plan that would not be otherwise available. The Community Planning Division of the Prince George's County Planning Department provided outstanding support in drafting the application.

Using the SC Action Plan for guidance, we are working on several projects. One goal of the SC action plan is to improve the appearance and economic viability of our downtown core with the ultimate goal of bringing in a better diversity of businesses. We have been awarded a \$35,000 grant for facade improve-

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ments in the downtown area. This grant requires the property and business owners, to various degrees, to match their grant award. Applications to participate are now being accepted. Approval by the Town of the applications will be guided by published design guidelines. We plan to apply for this type of grant for several years. The recent repaving of Main Street has improved the appearance of the downtown area. The State Highway Administration has in the works, re-bricking of Main and Water street's sidewalks to bring them into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. This will not only improve appearance, but more importantly, will make them safer. A major eyesore downtown is the Old School. At our request, the Planning Department contracted for an in-depth study of the building to assess its condition for possible reuse. The study is now in draft form and being reviewed by the Planning Department's Historic Preservation Section. If the building can be saved and renovated it could become a great, central asset for the Town.

Downtown parking is an issue

that is also addressed by the SC action plan. This is a multi-faceted issue. Does the current CSC zoning inhibit retail businesses locating in town? We have raised this issue with the County, that is currently involved in a three-year rewrite of its zoning laws. The CSC zoning requires each business have a certain number of dedicated parking spaces within 500 feet of the business, depending on the type of business and square footage. This zoning may be appropriate for suburban shopping centers, but does not fit our historic main street that was laid out before cars became a dominate presence. Another facet is the perception that there are not enough parking spaces. Our parking study indicates there are enough spaces, but people don't know where they are due to inadequate, confusing signage. Improving signage downtown is in our SC action plan as well. A related issue is that of upgrading our parking meters to provide payment methods other than coins, and adding some long-term metered parking in the Church Street parking lot.

Economic growth and stability is only one aspect of sustainability and smart growth. In my view, the ultimate goal of smart growth and sus-

tainability for the Town is to have a great place to live and work, that fosters a sense of community and that respects and maintains its natural, historic and cultural resources. In order to reach out to the community, we have updated our website and added Facebook and Twitter. Except for people who have requested mailed copies, we are delivering the *Landings* newsletter electronically. Doing so frees up personnel and conserves paper.

We sought, and were granted, a Technical Assistance Grant from the Washington Council of Governments for a look at the availability of increasing pedestrian and bicycle movement in Town. The renovation of Town Hall will increase its energy efficiency while the new addition will add needed office space and provide a better meeting space for the community.

Our Historical Committee has done a great job of collecting the history of the Town and representing the Town at historical events during War of 1812 celebrations throughout 2014. For the first time, the Annual House and Garden Pilgrimage tour came to Town where

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TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY

March 6 • FRIDAY • 4:00–7:00 p.m.

March 20 • FRIDAY • 4:00–7:00 p.m.

M E N U

Fried Whiting or Tilapia, Green Beans,
Cole Slaw, Bread, Drink & Dessert.

Cost: \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 children (5-12 yrs)

Call: 301-627-2636

or email: trinityec@verizon.net for more information



Report **2015** **FEBRUARY**

Town Citations: 26 ❖ State Citations: 14

In-Town Incidents:

- 1 Breaking & Entering
- 2 Vehicle Impound
- 1 Recovered Property
- 1 Warrant
- 2 Larceny

Out-of-Town Incidents:

- 2 Assault
- 1 Burglary
- 15 Larceny
- 4 Robbery
- 1 Car Jacking
- 2 Stolen Vehicle
- 1 Death Report

*All in-Town incidents were in the downtown area and not in the residential areas—unless indicated with an **

numerous of our residents historical homes were open for tours. The Prince George's Historical Society's "Prince of the County" tour event was also held in Town at Kingston. These few steps are only the beginning for us on the road to achieving our goals.

Government Operations

As previously reported, the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) audit showed actual revenues of \$986,205, with \$709,529 of actual expenditures, resulting in a \$276,676 surplus. The majority of the surplus was due to an unexpected increase in income tax revenues. The State has indicated that this increase in revenue was caused by people selling stocks and bonds in anticipation of an increase in the federal capital gains tax. This year's FY2015 Budget has been modified once to accommodate the \$35,000 facade improvement grant and several smaller police department grants received. In the coming months, the Board will be adjusting some of the line items in the detailed (management) budget, but will not require a transfer of funds between departments. So far

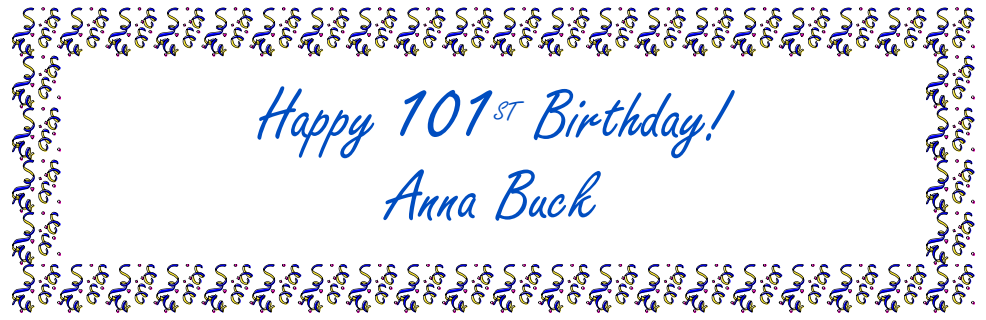
this year, the Town has purchased a new pickup truck with plow and ordered a bathroom trailer for the Public Works facility. We did not renew our recycling contract with the County and instead, contracted directly with a service provider at a cost saving. The Town is in the process of purchasing the blue recycle bins from the County. The police cruisers have been upgraded with printer/scanners to accommodate issuing State citations and the office computers have been upgraded to Windows 7. Other agreements include: a mutual aid agreement in case of a major natural disaster, the right to purchase road salt from the state, and a feasibility study for the new Town Hall Addition project.

We have started working on the FY2016 budget. Our policy since I took office has been to budget to pay for current expenses out of budgeted current income. Capital

expenditures are funded from the unrestricted reserve fund. Most revenue line items don't fluctuate, to any great extent, from year to year. Others do, and so are more difficult to estimate. Unlike the vast majority of municipal governments who rely on real estate taxes, our major revenue stream is our share of State income taxes. Our slightly higher median income level and very low real estate tax most likely account for the inversion. The State only estimates income taxes at the State level. In FY2014, income tax revenue accounted for approximately 48% of our revenue. In FY2013, income taxes accounted for 42% of our revenue. For the current FY2015, we estimated \$300,00 of income tax revenue, about 29% of the total estimated revenue. The current payments of income tax revenue indicate that we will exceed the budgeted amount once again.

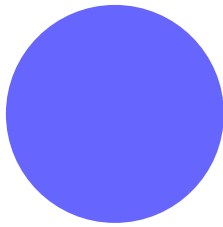
On the expense side, the major issue will be personnel. Town elections will be held on January 4, 2016. I will not be running for office. The Board has been discussing creating a Town Administrator position that will provide some operation continuity as elected officials change and making the job of President somewhat less than full time. We also need to evaluate additional personnel in all departments. Please join us at the next Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, March 10th to discuss these issues.

—Steve Sonnett / President,
Board of Commissioners



Town Trees Pruned Soon

PEPSCO has been through the Town recently and marked certain trees with a blue dot. This means these trees are scheduled for a complete removal in the near future. We have already spotted some marked trees on Rectory



and School Lanes. Please check the trees on your property for these blue dots. If you feel the tree(s) should not be removed, then contact us at Town Hall at 301-627-6905.

It is our understanding that replacement trees (saplings) will be available from PEPCO free of charge.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Spring forward! Advance clocks one hour. Sunday, March 8th, 2 a.m.

TOWN MEETING: Tuesday, March 10th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. At the top of the agenda, the Board will be discussing the elements of next year's fiscal budget. The meeting is open to the public and time is allotted at the end of the agenda for public participation.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: March 12–15 at the Show Place Arena. Call: 301-952-7900, or visit: www.caasports.com for more info. Find special discount offers! at: www.pgparcs.com

COLONIAL TAVERN DINNER: Saturday, March 14th, 7–9:00 p.m. at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Be our guest as we recreate the atmosphere and flavor of a mid-18th century tavern dinner in Upper Marlborough. Participants will enjoy colonial food and spirits. Following dinner, listen to *Ship's Company* sing sea chanties and tavern songs of the period. *Capacity is limited; reservation and payment required in advance.* (\$40 residents). Call: 301-952-8010.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS — PLANNING SESSION for SUMMER EVENTS & MONTHLY ARCHIVING SESSION: Saturday, March 21st, 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Visitors welcome and encouraged to bring items of historical significance to be scanned for the Town Archives—meeting is open to the public.

BEST HORSE SHOW SERIES: Saturday & Sunday, March 21-22 (8 a.m.–5 p.m.) For more info, call: 301-952-7900, or visit: www.showplacearena.com

BOARD of Commissioners WORK SESSION: **NEW DATE!** Monday, March 23, 9:15 am at Town Hall. The meeting agenda consists of current business items up for Board discussion. Work Sessions are always open to the public, however, public participation is at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

THE AUDACIOUS JOSHUA BARNEY: Thursday, April 9, 2015 1:00–2:00 p.m. Joshua Barney was not only a participant in the Revolutionary War, but also a key player in The War of 1812 at the Battle of Bladensburg. Come hear his story! Advanced registration is suggested. FREE. Bladensburg Waterfront Park: 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710. Call: 301-779-0371 for more information.

TARTAN DAY TEA: Saturday, April 11th, 2 p.m. Celebrate National Tartan Day at Darnall's Chance House Museum. Enjoy the tastes and sounds of Scotland! Wear your clan's tartan to be entered into a themed door prize drawing—not Scottish? No problem, just wear plaid to be eligible. *Capacity is limited; reservations & payment required in advance.* Resident/\$23; Ages 18 & up. Call: 301-952-8010 for more info.

AT THE LIBRARY (Upper Marlboro Branch): March 5 & 19, April 2, 16 & 30. The LEGOS CREATIVE CLUB meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:30-6:30pm. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided and kids ages 6-12 can let their imaginations run wild! Registration is required. All children must be accompanied by their parent or guardian. Please contact the 14730 Main Street branch for more information and to register. (301) 627-9330.

UM COMMUNITY CENTER Classes and Activities:

The newly renovated center offers a wide-array of venues and programs too numerous to mention, but, here are just a few of the activities for this month . . .

Monday, March 09—thru Wednesday, April 01, 2015

Aerobics: Hula Hoop, Adults, Intermediate
Strengthen your core, lose inches off your waist.

Tuesday, March 10—thru Thursday, April 02, 2015

Zumba: Fitness, Adults
Fusion of Latin and International music and dance themes that create a dynamic and exciting workout.

Thursday, March 12—thru Thursday, April 30, 2015

Karate: Mixed Ages, Beginning
Students will learn basic karate fundamentals.

Tuesday, March 17—thru Thursday, April 09, 2015

Sewing: Adults, Beginning
Learn basic sewing techniques. Bring materials.

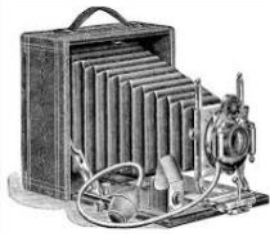
Saturday, March 21—thru Saturday, May 09, 2015

Bio Fitness & Cardio Fit: Hi-Lo Impact
Aerobics class for cardio benefit. Low or hi-impact.

Saturday, March 21—thru Saturday, April 18, 2015

Ballet & Tap: Mixed Ages
Introduction to basic ballet positions & tap steps. Ballet and tap shoes needed.

5400 Marlboro Race Track Rd 301-627-2828



UPPER MARLBORO PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have an old photograph taken in Upper Marlboro before 1945? If you do, then Darnall's Chance House Museum wants to see it! The photograph can be of anything or anyone from Upper Marlboro's past - a building, special event, tobacco warehouse, fishing boat, farm, family picture – you name it.

All the photographs gathered for this contest will be given to the Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee (TUMHC) for inclusion in their archives.

Five winning photographs will receive \$75 each. All entries will be on public display at the museum on Fridays & Sundays between June 1 and June 30 during tour hours.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
MAY 15, 2015



For questions, call:

Darnall's Chance House Museum

301-952-8010, or email: darnallschance@pgparks.com

Visit Darnall's Chance online at: history.pgparks.com

CONTEST RULES:

- 1) The photograph must have been taken in the Upper Marlboro vicinity before the end of World War II (1945).
- 2) The photograph has never been published in a book or newspaper or housed in a public archive/library.
- 3) You must enter your submission in one of five categories: Agriculture, Art & Architecture, People, Special Event, or Transportation.
- 4) Five winning photographs (one from each category) will be selected and the winners will receive \$75.
- 5) You may enter as many photographs as you like.
- 6) Contest is open to anyone (including businesses, government agencies, religious organizations, individuals, etc.).
- 7) You must submit your photograph(s) by May 15, 2015.
- 8) Please provide as much information about the photograph as possible (i.e. date, location, names, etc.).
- 9) Only scanned digital copies are acceptable. If you don't have a scanner, then bring your photograph(s) to Darnall's Chance and we will scan it at no cost.

Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the Colonial Picnic on June 13, 2015