

## 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."

**OVERVIEW:** This has been a busy year for the Town and its employees. We have passed more legislation and initiated more capital improvement projects than in any other similar period in Town history. We have taken advantage of a "Window of Opportunity" to improve the quality of life for our residents and continue our efforts to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens and visitors to the Town.

We've been working on street (and sidewalk) safety, plus, improving traffic-control devices and directional signage. The Marlborough Towne HOA got their long-awaited ordinance for a "No Parking Zone" on the east side of Marlborough Drive. The sidewalk on the south side of Route 725 has been further improved, as well as, the sidewalk along Old Mill Road at the Union United Methodist Church.



The bus stop across from the 7-11 on Water Street has been removed and the pedestrian crosswalk there will be moved further south on Water Street to decrease the continuing safety hazards to pedestrians and vehicles at that busy confluence of movement. Increased safety-related signage has gone up along Elm Street, Water Street, and Old Mill Road as well as Town Entrance Signs at each of the 4 entryways into Town (*long a matter of some confusion*).

We continue to face these challenges despite reduced Local Income Tax Revenues from the State. In order to address this problem while continuing our services and Capital Improvement Projects, the Town has initiated innovative revenue-producing measures, such as: opening the Church Street Lot to

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### Town Hall Upper Marlboro, Maryland



#### **Board of Town Commissioners**

Jim Storey – *President*  
Linda Pennoyer, Nancy C. Clagett

#### **Office Hours**

Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

#### **Contact Town Hall**

(office) 301-627-6905

(fax) 301-627-2080

(e-mail) [info@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:info@uppermarlboromd.gov)

(cable channel) **Verizon 19**

OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:

[www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov)

## ON THE AGENDA

The March Board of Commissioners Town Meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. The Agenda can be found on our website under the "Town Meetings" tab at the top of the page.

The first item of business seeks Board approval to establish 1 new residential driveway cut and the relocation of an existing cut, as part of the Elm Street Improvements & Sidewalk Project.

The Board will also be voting on *Ordinance 2017-01: Building*

& *Permitting*, which was distributed at the February Town Meeting and officially introduced at the February 28 Work Session.

We will also have an overview of the Town's Contracting and Procurement Laws delivered by Town Attorney, Kevin Best.

As usual, additional items and announcements that crop-up after the Agenda was set, will be covered under "General/ Administration issues" which immediately precedes the "Public Comment" section at the end of the Agenda.

long-term day-parking, extending downtown parking meter hours (*under reduced rates*); and, adjusting fines and administrative fees to be more in sync with similar charges from the County. This has not only enhanced revenue, but has reduced confusion among the general public who will now experience standardized enforcement from both the Town and the County when faced with a citation. We continue our efforts toward the realization of a new, usable renovated Town Hall that will better serve the public, while at the same time, enhancing the efficacy of our Town Staff in the performance of their duties. Continuing efforts should culminate in the completion of the project (both the new Town Hall addition and refurbishment of existing structure) within the year.

The Elm Street Improvements & Sidewalk Project (*a joint cooperative effort with the County*) will finally link the east and west pedestrian routes in a safe and improved fashion, up to ADA standards as outlined in our Sustainable Community Action Plan. Obviously, to be seriously considered for further funding from the State, we must demonstrate that the Town is doing its part to enhance the safety, health and well-being of its citizens.

The downtown Façade Improvement Program is now in its third year, and Mr. Steve Sonnett as Chair of the Sustainable Communities Workgroup (SCW) is a good point of contact for those interested in enhancing those “Sustainable Community” efforts that improve the appearance and economic viability of our downtown.

**TOWN OPERATIONS:** The three faces of our Town (General Government, Public Safety, and Public Works) continue to work in concert

## The Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee

### NEXT TUMHC MEETING DATE . . .

## Archiving & Planning Session

Saturday, March 18 starting at 10:00 a.m.

**R**esidents of the Town and surrounding area are encouraged to bring items of historical interest (such as letters, drawings and photos) to be scanned for the Town’s Archives. Contributors receive free copies.

The TUMHC is always looking for new members and volunteers to help out with events, research and the archiving of our Town’s rich history.

**You don’t have to be a researcher or a historian to join in on the fun!**

—Just an ordinary citizen who wants to give back to their community—

website: [www.tumhc.com/](http://www.tumhc.com/) email: [historic@uppermarlboromd.gov](mailto:historic@uppermarlboromd.gov)

with the Board of Commissioners to accomplish not only the daily requirements, but also the future needs of the Town. We are working under challenging conditions while waiting for the improvements offered by the new facilities and refurbishment of the existing Town hall structure. Whether it’s the antiquated telephone system or the poorly designed HVAC facilities, we are “making do” until these subsequent improvements can be rolled into the future. It is the most cost-effective solution to these problems. We will “make it work”!

**Code Enforcement:** This has put an operational aspect into our legislation for the recently passed “Vehicle & Traffic”, “Residential Property Standards”, and, “Building and Permitting” ordinances. By and large, the Town has adopted/enforced current *County Code*, or adjusted it to the unique requirements of the Town. A “stitch in time” approach helps eliminate problems arising from people being uninformed of the rules that exist for the Common Good.

One more thing you can be confident in, is the competence and positive mindset of your Town employees. In my 50 years within the

work force, I can firmly state that these people have and will “get the job done” for you. The Boards’ challenge is to make sure that our employees are appropriately recognized and compensated for their service. We would not be well-served to lose the abilities of these valued employees to our Community.

This past August, our Independent Annual Audit again endorsed the Town for running an operational surplus while functioning in a fiscally prudent fashion. We continue to serve the current needs of our citizens, and the collective needs of the Community. For the fourth year in a row, the Town was presented the prestigious “Banner Town” award by the Maryland Municipal League (MML). We have accumulated and retained Investment Assets that exceed 3.5 million; which is one reason why we can continue to offer the lowest Real Estate and Personal Property Tax rates in the County.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Communication is the key here. For those interested citizens—you can tap into the RSS Feed capabilities of the Town (located on our website) and get real-time updates on significant

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cant changes within the Town and our local area as they occur—whether its traffic delays, large-scale event schedules, inclement weather alerts, roadwork or precarious incidents in Town. If you want that information, it is available through our website and updated regularly by our staff.

One excellent example of a proactive community located within the Town boundaries would be Marlborough Towne. These residents with their disciplined structure (HOA), neighborhood watch system, Block Captains, etc., are a pleasure to deal with. They understand their civic responsibilities to identify imperfect local conditions, and have always supported the Town in our efforts toward enhanc-

ing the Common Good. This is what good Municipal Government is all about, but it needs the cooperative effort of its citizens.

You can expect our continued best efforts throughout this year from the Board of Town Commissioners and our motivated employees. There will be another opportunity for informed, concerned citizens to be a part of their local government in the upcoming Town Election in January. Consider what you can do to be a part of this opportunity for personal growth and community service. Please remember, ultimately people tend to get the type of government that reflects their participation and interest level. **This is a challenging time, but one ripe with the potential for growth and improvement.**

—James Storey/President

## How to Dispose of Plastic Bags:

Since plastic bags, films and wraps **are no longer accepted** for Household Recycling collection, residents are encouraged to bring their plastic bags to these local area food stores:

**Giant Food** (Marlboro Crossroads) 5700 Crain Highway

**Weis** (Marlboro Square) 9500 SE Crain Highway

**Safeway** (at Osborne Road): 7605 Crain Highway

**Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging**

**Recycle if Clean & Dry**  
**Store Drop-off**  
**PLASTIC**  
BAGS / FILM / WRAP  
how2recycle.info

**Look for this label on film products like these:**

**plasticfilmrecycling.org**

**Air Pillows**

**Grocery & Retail Bags**  
Labeled # 2 (HDPE) or # 4 (LLDPE)  
Tip: Store in one plastic bag until next trip to the food store

**Case Wrap**

**Newspaper Bags**

**Bread Bags**  
(with crumbs shaken out)

**Produce Bags**

**Food Storage Bags**  
**PLEASE CUT OFF LOCKING STRIPS**

**Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue and Diaper Wrap Packaging**



Town Citations: 49  
State Citations: 3

### In-Town Incidents:

- 1 Missing Person
- 1 Vehicle Impound

### Out-of-Town Incidents:

- 1 Burglary
- 6 Larceny
- 3 Robbery

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



**The Town of  
Upper Marlboro  
is on  
Social Media!**

Be sure to follow us on Twitter and "Like" the Town's page on Facebook to get up-to-date alerts & information and to see what's happening!

**@TownUMarlboro**



**FOLLOW US ON  
TWITTER**





## — ROUND 2 — WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Last Month, the Town asked residents to contact their State Legislators in regards to Senate Bill 397. Between 2010 and 2014, the State Comptroller overpaid annual income tax revenues to 66 of Maryland's 157 municipalities. They now want the overages paid back. Several years ago, your Town had asked the Comptroller's Office why recent revenue trends were so high. Long story short, the Town wound up paying the State back over \$82,000 for 2015, and had another \$29,100 of tax revenues withheld for 2016.

Thanks to your support, the Town of Upper Marlboro, and other municipalities throughout Maryland, succeeded in getting **State Senate Bill-397 unanimously passed** in the Senate! This means **the Bill now needs to get passed by the House of Delegates and the Governor** before relieving the Town from paying back an additional \$378,800.

If SB-397 is passed, the 66 municipalities effected by the State-mandated payback of misallocated LIT Revenues would be forgiven, and the Town would be able to use these funds for Town improvement projects and programs. Be a part of "the Solution" by contacting your Elected Representatives and tell them you want them to support this Legislation. —*Thank You!*

***Please contact your State Delegates!***  
**BEFORE March 20th, 2017 — say YES to SB-397**

### **State Delegates (District 23B) Contact Information:**



**Marvin E. Holmes, Jr.** Phone 301-858-3310  
Email: marvin.holmes@house.state.md.us

**Joseph F. Vallario, Jr.** Phone: 301-858-3488  
Email: joseph.vallario@house.state.md.us

*Thanking you in advance,* The Upper Marlboro Board of Town Commissioners

### Town Refuse Collection Schedule:

Place containers at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection, but, no more than 12 hours prior to the scheduled collection time. Remove empty containers from curb no later than 12 hours after collection.

**Residential Trash — Mondays\***

**Bulk Trash — Mondays\***

**Yard Waste — Mondays\***

**Residential Recycling — Thursdays**

*\* see our Newsletter or Website for Holiday pickup schedules*

### How to Report Problems

The best time to report a missed collection, suspicious activity or any municipal matter, is when it occurs. Resident's issues are most successfully handled during normal business hours. Your elected officials and staff invite you to call with timely issues Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. If you have questions on municipal operations or complex issues that require a consultation or documentation, we urge you to contact us during working hours to schedule an appointment.

Questions? call: **301-627-6905**

or email: **Info@UpperMarlboroMD.gov**

PHOTO COURTESY M—NCPPC



# CAN WE REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY



The Town sends **ALERTS** via Social Media the Town RSS Feed & news posts on its Website

**KEEP UP** with **WEATHER ALERTS, ROAD CLOSURES, timely MEETINGS & EVENTS,** and other **REPORTED ACTIVITY** that impacts your neighborhood . . .



**There are MANY ways you can stay in-the-know**



**Town Website:** [www.uppermarlboromd.gov](http://www.uppermarlboromd.gov)



**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TownUpperMarlboro](http://www.facebook.com/TownUpperMarlboro)



**Twitter:** Follow us @TownUMarlboro



**RSS feed:** (alerts you when timely notices & alerts are posted!)



**MailChimp:** (the *Landings* newsletter is emailed to you!)



The *Landings* newsletter is published each month on the Friday before our Town Meeting. Visit our website and sign-up for MailChimp delivery today. While there, also sign-up for RSS Feed Alerts.

**TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO • 14211 SCHOOL LANE, UPPER MARLBORO MD 20772**

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**UPPER MARLBORO CERT MEETING:** Saturday March 11th 9:00a.m. at Town Hall. Please come out to support the team and, share your ideas and talents. There will be a brief training on “size up” and “damage assessment.”

### **LIBERTY GIRLS: AN AMERICAN GIRL BOOK**

**CLUB:** Saturday, March 11 & April 1st 2017, 10:30-12 noon **Darnell's Chance House Museum.** Girls ages 7-13 are invited to join our new revolutionary book club! Each week we will discuss a different Felicity book from the American Girl series with a Prince George's County librarian, make a colonial craft, and enjoy period refreshments. Last session includes a book discussion, tea party, and dancing! \$30/person info 301-952-8010.

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WORKGROUP**

**(SCW) MEETING:** The SCW will hold its next meeting at Town Hall on **Tuesday, March 14th at 8:00 a.m.** The SCW meetings are open to the public and occur on the second Tuesday of each month. Please check our [Town website](#) for agendas and schedule updates.

**TOWN MEETING:** Tuesday, March 14th, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public and time is allotted on the agenda for public participation.

**SMOOTH SMOOTHIES:** Thursday, March 16th, 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at the Upper Marlboro Community Center. Come out to learn how to make healthy smoothies! Info call 301-627-2828.

### **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS — PLANNING & ARCHIVING SESSIONS:**



**TRINITY CHURCH FISH FRY**

**March 17 & March 31**

**FRIDAY • 4 – 7:00 p.m.**

**M E N U**



Fried Whiting or Tilapia, Green Beans, Cole Slaw,  
Bread, Drink & Dessert. Cost: \$10 Adults, \$8 Seniors  
\$5 Children (11 and under) Call: 301-627-2636  
or email: [trinityec@verizon.net](mailto:trinityec@verizon.net) for more information

**AT THE LIBRARY (Upper Marlboro Branch):**  
14730 MAIN STREET, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 • (301) 627-9330

**CREATIVE COLORING FOR ADULTS:** Saturday, March 11th from 11am –12 noon. Feeling tired and stressed out? Come join us for a relaxing hour of self paced creativity. (ages 18+)

**READY 2 READ STORYTIME:** Tuesdays, March 14th, 20th, & 21st; 11:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m. (ages 3–5). Bring your preschooler and join us for stories, songs, finger plays and more!

**LEGOS: CREATIVE CLUB:** Thursday, March 16th 5:30 p.m.– 6:30 p.m. Freestyle building. Legos will be provided and kids can let their imaginations run wild! (Ages 5-12).

March 18th, 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 general public.

**COLONIAL TAVERN DINNER:** Saturday, March 18th, 7–9:00 p.m. at **Darnell's Chance House Museum** Be our guest as we recreate the atmosphere and flavor of a mid–18<sup>th</sup> 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 (\$35 county residents). Call: 301-952-8010.

**BOARD of Commissioners WORK SESSION:** Tuesday, March 28th, 9:15 a.m. 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.

**EATING FOR THE DIABETIC:** Thursday, March 30th 5–6:00 p.m. at the Sports & Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Hyattsville. Call: 301-583-2400.

**BOWIE GREEN EXPO:** April 8, 2017—Saturday, 12 noon—4:00 pm at Kenhill Center, 2614 Kenhill Dr, Bowie. FREE family-fun event open to the public. Activities include a Kids Zone with make & take activities, Puppet Show, Live Entertainment, Electric Cars, and over 50 vendors showcasing their environmental friendly products and services. 301-809-3011.